

# THE WORLD ON PAPER

**ANTHOLOGY 3**

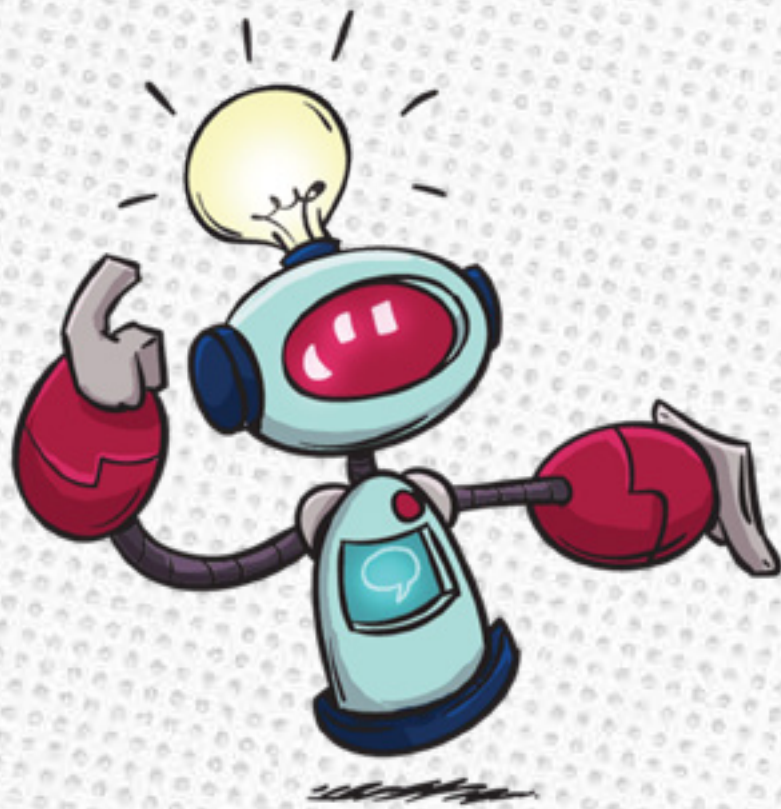
**AMERICAN ENGLISH GLOBAL COMICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
3RD COHORT**

American English Global Comics Virtual eXchange Program  
U.S. Department of State ★ Office of English Language Programs





## AE COMICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE



Amid the coronavirus pandemic, more education and exchange leaders are seeking ways to use technology to reach international teachers whose lives have been disrupted by closed schools, cancelled trips, and prolonged isolation. The Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), saw the need to pivot face-to-face exchanges, run through the English Access Microscholarship Program, to a virtual exchange learning experience connecting English as a Foreign Language (EFL) professionals to a new pedagogy that could be applied to future classroom teaching.



The 2021 Winter *American English Global Comics Virtual Exchange* was the third of three pilots for a 10-week virtual exchange between English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teachers nominated by Regional Language Officers (RELOs) at various US embassies and consulates across the globe. The objective of this exchange was to use storytelling through comics to highlight a community challenge within participants' social and cultural context while offering new pedagogy for language learning.

The purpose of the exchange involved teaching content knowledge of graphic novels and the linguistic skills of storytelling in English. The program used the Global Competence Matrix framework which involves four categories of global education which include: 1-Investigating the World, 2-Recognizing Perspectives, 3-Communicating Ideas, and 4-Taking Action. This framework provides participants with the tools to examine their colleagues' and their own perspectives on issues of relevance to their own communities. The use of Project Based Learning (PBL) methodology guided participants through collaborative teamwork with a final project involving critical thinking, problem solving, cross cultural communication, collaboration, and innovation of this anthology of comic stories that represent the global community of the participants of this virtual exchange.

This collective project was a work of love. We hope you enjoy reading their stories and getting to know these superhero teachers. The final project required participants to work together in their teams to identify a challenge, then to create a comic story where a superhero they created can solve it. The participants created comics in a variety of ways, by using Pixton, an online comic-creator, hand-illustrating, and/or combining techniques.

It has been my sincere pleasure to work with these courageous, talented, and enthusiastic teachers over the past 10 weeks. Please enjoy this anthology of their work.

Jacqueline Gardy



# INTRODUCTION

JACQUELINE GARDY, EDITOR





## CC-BY-NC-ND

© 2021 by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of English Language Programs.  
This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution- NonCommercial- No Derivatives 4.0 International Public License.

To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.





## ABOUT THIS VOLUME

This volume contains collected comic stories from the participants of the AE Global Comics Virtual Exchange Program Pilot, Winter 2021. Participants created these comics using Pixton EDU, hand-illustrating, or by using a combination of digital tools and comics. Comics are generally read in panels, left to right.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

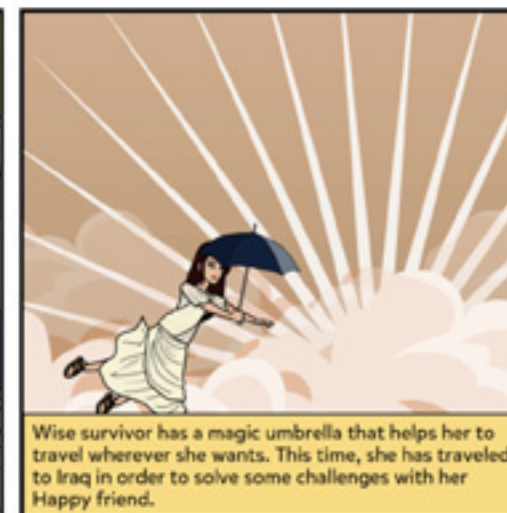
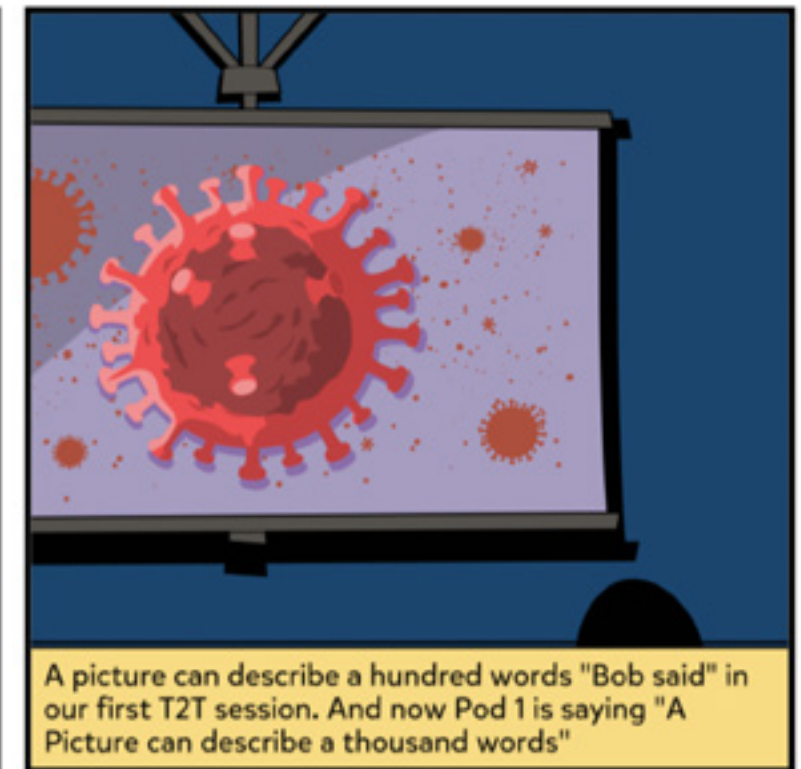
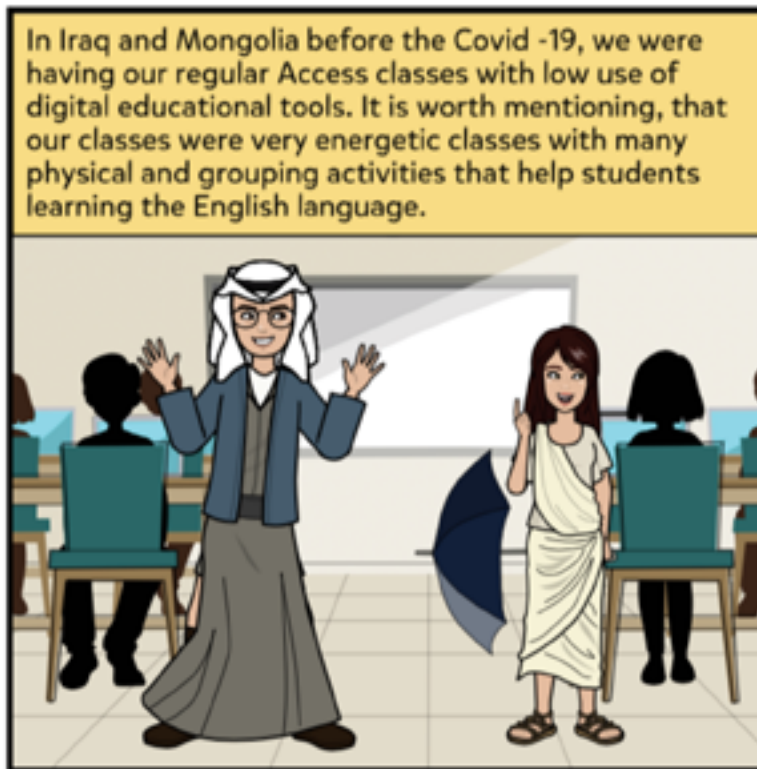
Please note the stories you'll find below contain a variety of perspectives and viewpoints, that may or may not reflect the U.S. Department of State's foreign policy. The comics have been left un-edited to capture the teacher's voices in full. We hope you enjoy this collection of stories!



# UYANGA ENKHTAIVAN



# BESTOON MAHDI SALIH





This is my national hero who is named 'Wise Survivor.' The most common character in Mongolian folk tales are the superheroes that survive their enemies or challenges by their supernatural intelligence or power of knowledge. My superhero is one representation of them. She has a magic umbrella, which helps her to travel wherever needs her help or wise decisions or solutions.

In our modern world, the only one who has extraordinary energy, who solves their challenges with the power of knowledge is the TEACHER. They are all superheroes.

— Uyanga Enkhtaivan

Mr. Peace is from Iraq. He is half-Kurdish half-Turkman and wearing Arabic clothes. He is willing to convey the message of peace to Iraqi people.

The first most widely spoken language in Iraq is Arabix. The second one is Kurdish and the third one is Turkman and the Syriac language. This greatly diverse combination of languages in Iraq leads to many civil wars unfortunately.

To that end, Mr.Peace plays his role as a peacebuilder with his lantern representing hope among the Iraqi people.

— Bestoon Mahdi Salih







I've never thought I could create one comic. AE Comics VX revealed my creativity for creating comics and built my creative confidence in digital technology. And I gained knowledge about creating comics and ways of using them in language classes.

-Uyanga Enkhtiavan

***“This program revealed my creativity...and built my creative confidence in digital technology.”***

***“It is all about tools and experience.”***



Before I joined the AE Comics VX program I was always saying individually that “online classes will never help in the learning process.”

But now, my saying changed to a loud voice and I say, “It is all about both tools and experience.” Thankfully we could add a lot to our teaching experiences through learning many tools during the program.

— Bestoon Mahdi Salih





# AMER BULJINA



*This is a story about the Bosnian Kingdom and its knight and king. Together with his king, the knight is someone who holds a flower and he offers peace to everyone. He does not have a sword. His king is rightful and honest and brings tolerance into his kingdom. His power led him to bring peace into his kingdom but also to unite people and make them feel safe.*

*Later on, the knight and his king traveled to the time when this country was involved in a brutal war. People who lived together forever suddenly became enemies. Besides the politicians who started this awful war, media were also a tool to manipulate information and people. That was the reason for the king and his knight to appear and explain to people a powerful lesson to stop the war. They wanted to restore peace and unite people again.*

*Of course, the knight used his powers to show up in the dreams of many people. He brought them back to the time of the powerful Bosnian Kingdom and showed them how to live together with respect and mutual understanding.*

Peace, dignity, tolerance, and hope.



Far away in the universe there was Bosnian Kingdom.





Centuries have passed but people were still united, together and strong!



But... during 1990s people were confused and terrible war began.



BREAKING NEWS!!!



The war destroyed families, schools... People who have lived together for centuries were separated!



And few weeks later...





***“ . . . just the beginning of our international journey.”***

The AE Comics virtual exchange helped me to learn how to use comics and graphic novels with my students. Now I see many possibilities for how to make classes more engaging by using comics. This was also a wonderful experience to meet my dear colleagues all over the world, mentors, and the rest of the VX team. Class-to-class exchanges were fantastic and they are just the beginning of our international journey.





# IBRAHIM AHMED MOHAMED ALI



*Super Sphinx is my national superhero. It has the head of a human being, a woman, to symbolize wisdom and the body of a lion to represent power and strength. It lies in front of the three pyramids in Giza, Egypt, specifically, the middle one. This distinguished location enables Super Sphinx to guard the treasures buried all over Egypt.*







Super Sphinx reproaches them for stealing their national treasures. He also tells them that those treasures belong to the international community. You had information, yet used it the wrong way. "You should've reported the authorities about the treasure, but you didn't. So, you'll be imprisoned for life inside the Great Pyramid."





***“The learning process has no limits.”***

The learning process has no limits.  
It's an interesting feeling to learn  
something new every now and then!





# MOHAMED "MARCEL" AYOUB BENDRIHEM

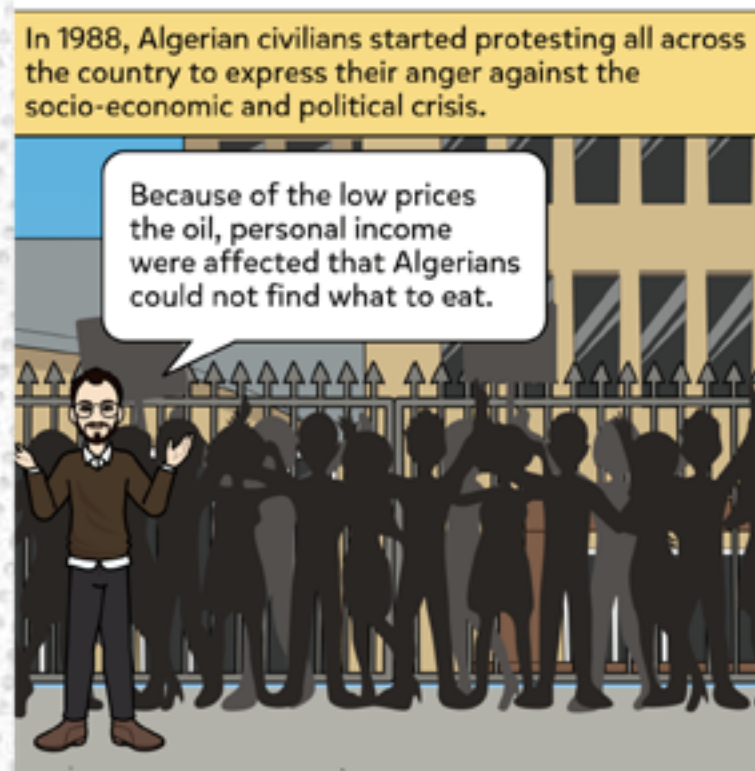


*Born and raised among a tribe belonging to the Saharan desert of Algeria, Maxen Hannibal had a promising life waiting for him, fueled by his sense of discovery, curiosity and niche for archaic antiques. The tribe leader as well as his parents had high hopes for him as he showed signs of remarkable mental acuity.*

*Maxen grew up to become a prominent archeologist among his peers. He was chosen to be the next leader of his tribe after the passing of elder leader.*

*As seeds of turmoil began to grow across the land of Algeria, things were not looking hopeful for the Saharan people mainly because security and safety were largely absent. Saharan people were marginalized compared to other regions elsewhere.*

*Civil war embarked when a group of rebels and terrorists started killing off innocent people. Then came the day where rain of terrors fell down on Maxen's tribe. Many people were slaughtered*



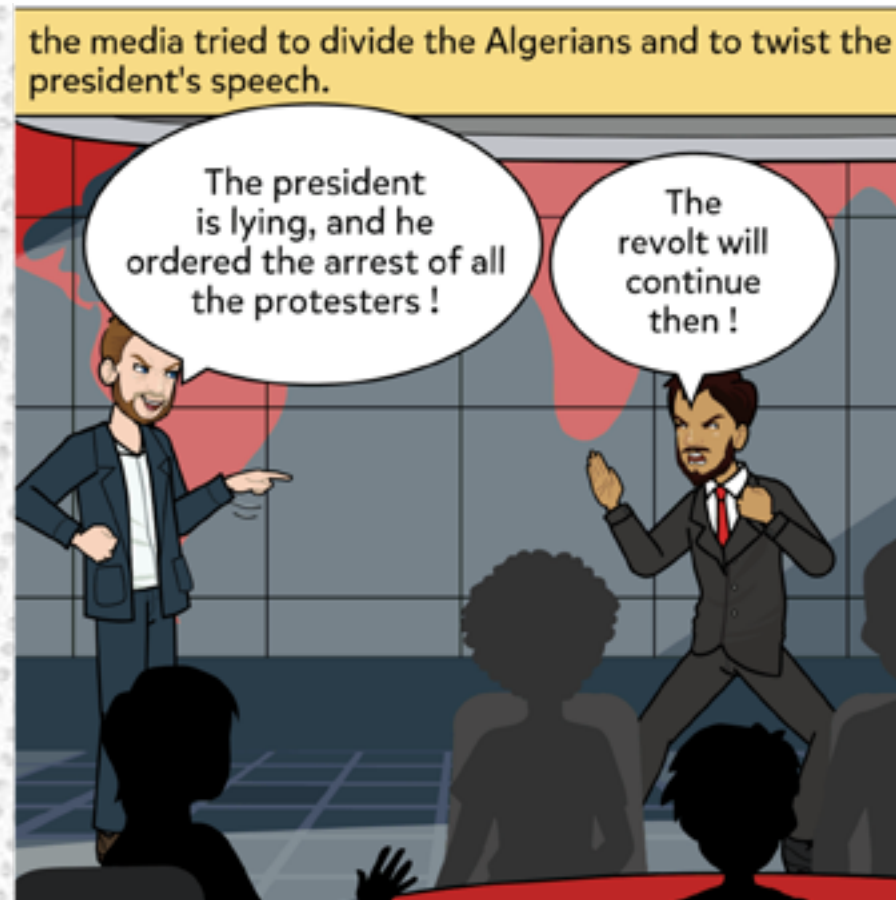


In a lurid way. Maxen led the survivors to the notorious cave known as "Tamouth." (Tamouth cave witnessed the tragedy of napalm execution, where a great number of Algerian civilians were killed by the French tyrants using Napalm bombs in an attempt to seek refuge from the agonizing terrorists.)

However, malice didn't end there; terrorist tracked the trail of refugees and launched a final attack that would kill whoever was in that cave. Maxen and his tribe took refuge in that same damned cave and were exterminated all.

The "hamsa" lantern that he once found on a discovery adventure in "Seffar" the lost city, and the biggest open museum in the world, absorbed all the energy, hopes and dreams of the innocent souls in that cave. The lantern projected that energy into the two last dying beings which are Doctor Hannibal Maxen and his fennec that he once saved in Seffar.

They were resurrected by the power of hamsa to fulfill the dream of all our nation of having peace.





The Algerian civil war started and the media held a big responsibility for it.



PeaceKeeper used his superpower to stop the civil war, to influence the media, and to restore peace.



The media debates had a bad influence and separated the public opinion between politicians and army leaders.



People celebrated the end of the civil war in all of the country.





## DESIGN NOTES

- ◆ PeaceKeeper prevents wars and civil wars by using his tool which are mind reading and time traveling.
- ◆ Tifinagh is the Amazigh alphabet which is really old “3rd century BCE to the 3rd century AD. It has been chosen recently to be the alphabet of Marvel’s superhero universe watches by Audemars Piguet.
- ◆ Hannibal means “the clever one” in Amazigh.
- ◆ Maxen means, “the man who performs/does his job properly and as it should be done” in Amazigh.
- ◆ The “H” on PeaceKeeper’s costume actually is a tifinagh letter for “Hna” which is “peace.”
- ◆ The fennec is the national symbol of Algeria.
- ◆ It is the guardian of the superhero, and it helps him to teleport and mind read evil people’s intentions.
- ◆ The Hamsa lantern: it traps and purifies evil souls and, it is PeaceKeeper’s tool to travel back in time to prevent the war.

***“You made us feel like children again.”***



I will never forget how you made us feel like children again. All I can say is that the AE Comics VX facilitators were all perfect in terms of teaching, sharing and training. Thank you for the good memories, and this experience shall never be forgotten!



# RAMI ESA AL-MUSA

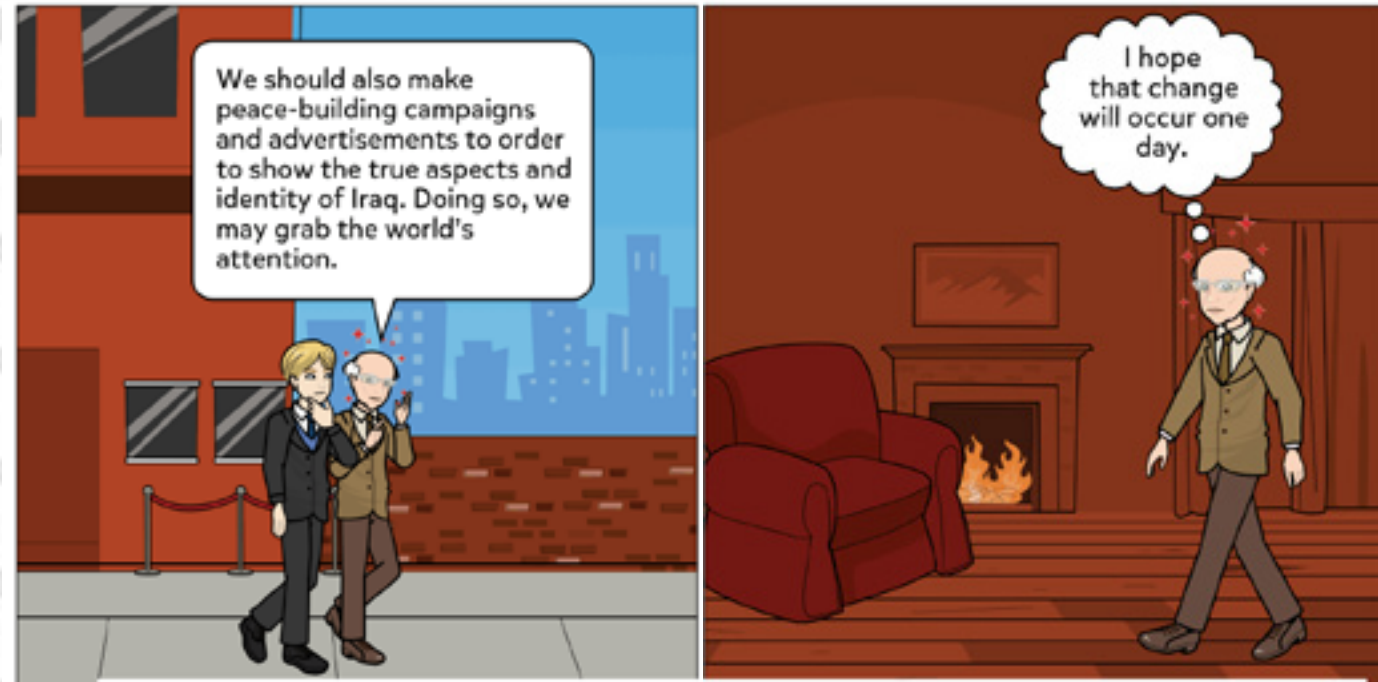
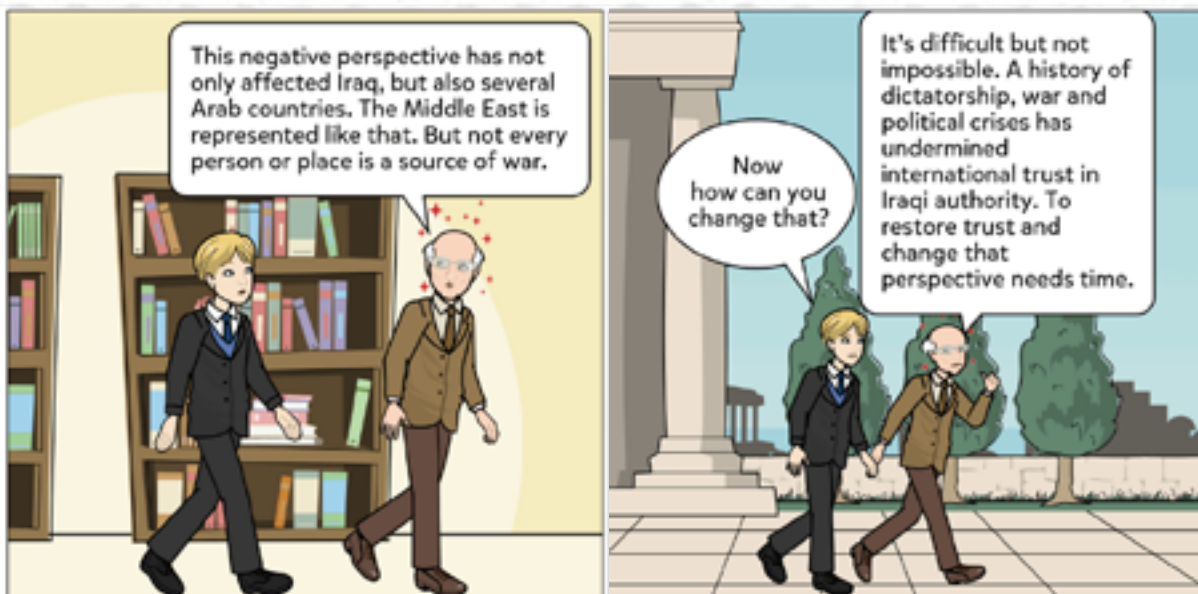


Mr. Brilliant, an expert in media and political sciences, saw, for decades, the negative effects of global misinformation and false media on his own country, Iraq. Iraq was known for terrorism and conflict, and was accused of having weapons of mass destruction in order they could invade it. The world started viewing Iraq as a minefield where no one dares to approach. As a result, Iraq no longer saw any development; it deteriorated.

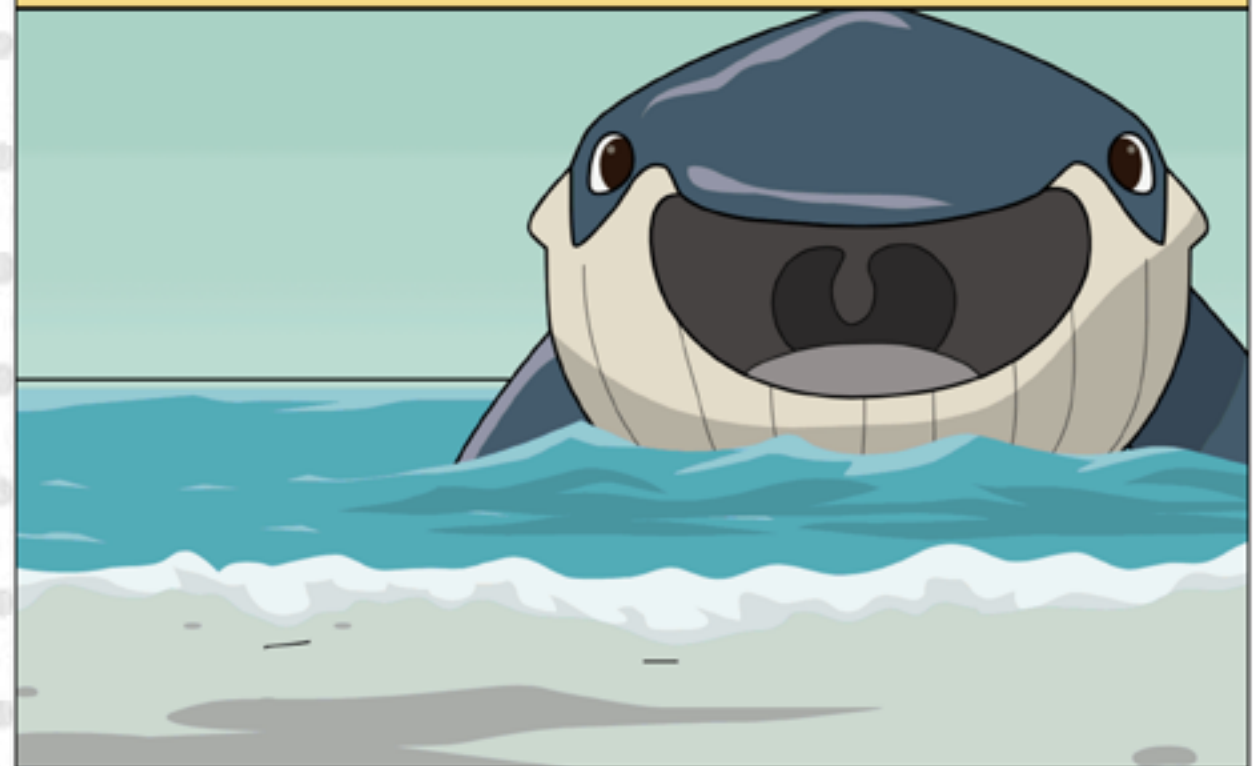
As he is brilliant, Mr. Brilliant thought that to let the world trust Iraq again, as not all Iraqis are bad, there must be peace-building campaigns and advertisements to show the real identity of Iraq. Also, there must be censorship over global media and Iraqis should know what kind of news reports the world reports about Iraq. People should be careful about media, as it plays a vital role in changing reality around us; it makes us see the world according to the media agents.







People should be careful of media. They should know the reason behind a news report, who reports information, and when and where is reported. They should analyze and evaluate information correctly, and don't be misled by parties. Media is like magic in that it changes reality according to the reporter's bias. For someone, this is a sea, but for someone else there is a harmful shark in this sea.





***“AE Comics VX enabled me to express my ideas in a creative way.”***



AE Comics VX has opened doors to a new creative method of teaching. It has enabled me to express my ideas in a creative way.

Using images in teaching is amazing and interesting!



Bringing a change in media requires making anti-misinformation internal initiatives and then global ones.



# TUGCE DALGINLI BOZKURT

TURKEY

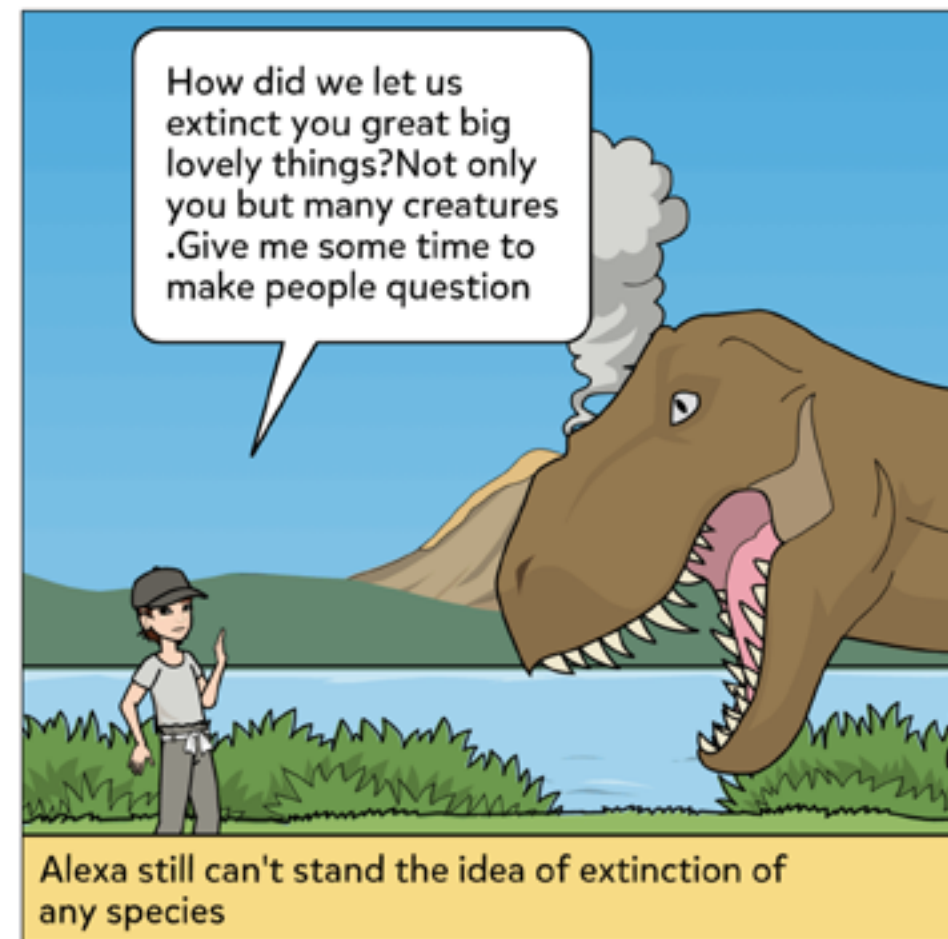
Alexa Sancar was a psychiatrist who had been working on Ikigai (reason for being) when she had a mental break down which made her think that she was going insane. Soon after she found that it hadn't gone wrong. On the contrary, she had managed to figure out the reason she thought she was going nuts.

Once she grabbed a book or respected all around her, she had the magic of healing any bad vibes, thoughts or intentions. She just yelled 'Justice!' then justice was there. She once screamed as 'Happy Children!' and BOOM all children around the world were where they had to be.

Once she was aware all people on Earth are there for a reason, she believed in herself. She was really making progress but something really went wrong. She realized that if she stops reading, caring and searching that goodness went nowhere. Unless she had books, she had nothing.

Legend says that Alexa is still alive but she is losing her hope day by day. And it is believed that when people start to look for their Ikigai she will appear everywhere. You may not recognize her as she is dressed casual and unsophisticated.

The secret is: look deeper inside and around you. Remember that looking is only an act but seeing is art. See your reason for being and you will see Alexa then.





Hold on!What about us?Aren't we also also destroying what we need around us.Why are we all here ?Is it worth all those ambitions,competitions,wars,bias?



I'll sneak into minds who are looking for answers,reason for being



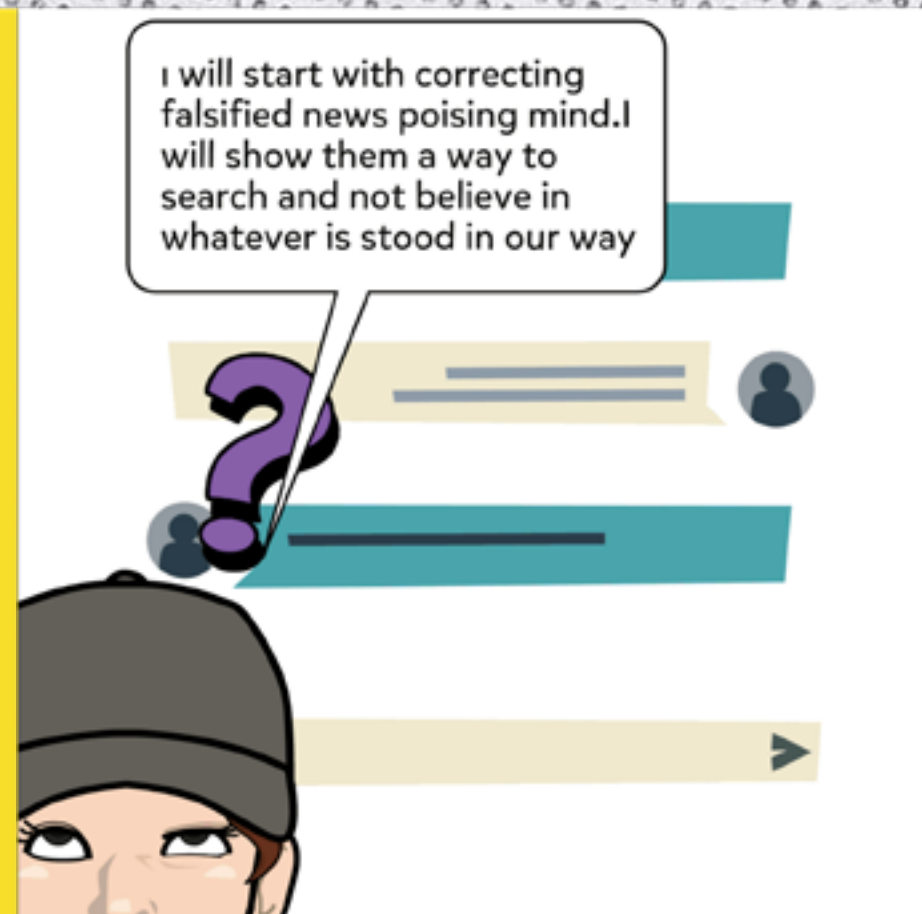
into children's minds whom we entrust our future to their bright and lively point of views



And I will always know that I will never walk alone.Those who are searching for the meaning of a decent,fair life for all will be my guide









***“Heroes are everywhere.”***



All dreams will come true when it is the right time. AE Comics opened up a door to my past, now and future. Heroes are everywhere.





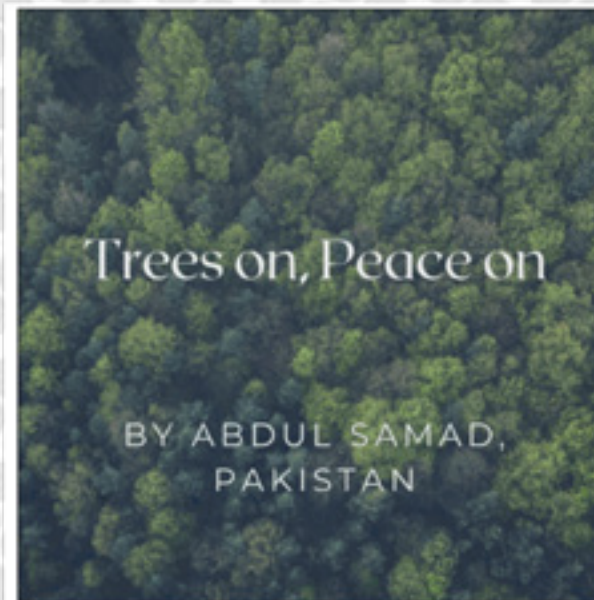
# ABDUL SAMAD



*Peaceman observed that people are educated but the sense of compassion and empathy is missing and it is destroying the peace.*

*Along with using his education, Peaceman spreads positivity through his magic words that he writes from his magic pen. He believes that peace, education, and compassion are the values that are connected and if these aren't connected, we are less able to empathize with others. He believes that when we try to have a peaceful society with compassion and education, we will have a better place to live in.*

*He is a peace agent, educated, humble and, a firm believer in peace. Peaceman has a mission to bring change through words.*



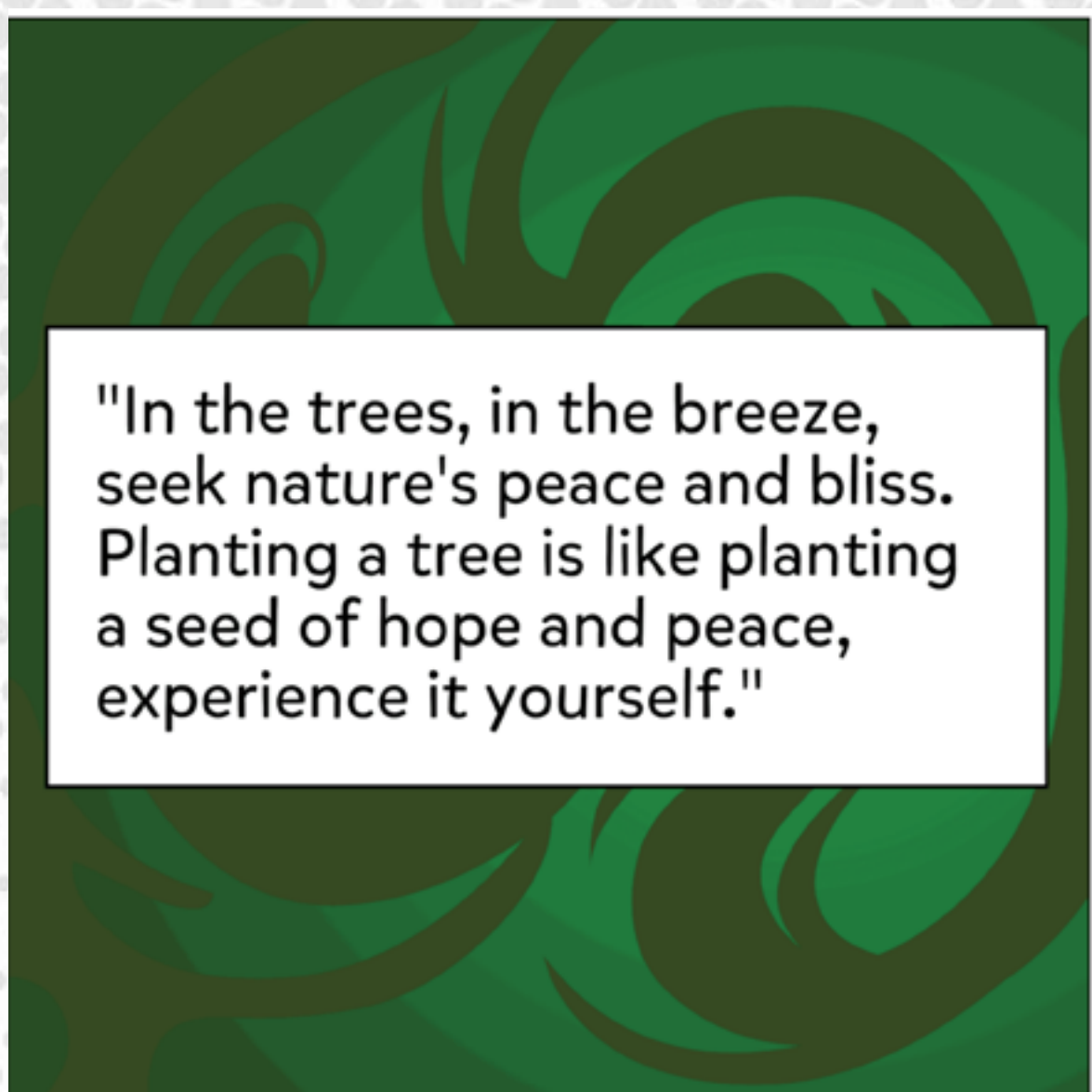
Peaceman is here to save the world. USE TREES FOR THE PEACE...!!!



There was a builder who wanted to cut all the trees to build the huge malls.









***“This program has given me the direction to use comics in my classroom.”***

I always wondered how comics can be used in the classroom to teach. This program has given me the direction to use comics in my classroom. I am going to use it the idea of national superheroes in my classroom as well.





# MAIMOONA NASEEM

PAKISTAN

*Ali Sadpara, Pahaad Zada (The Son of Mountains), was born in Sadpara-a small village in Skardu. He was a high altitude Pakistani mountaineer who successfully completed the First Ever Winter Ascent to the Nanga Parbat and climbed 8 of the 14 eight-thousanders.*

*He uses his snow glasses on his expeditions that help him in foreseeing the future of his country bright with the torch that he used to hold in his hands. His torch helps him in moving towards his dream that was seeing peace in his country by raising his country's flag on the top of K2.*

*On 18 February 2021, Pakistani authorities announced that he was presumed to be dead.*

A Journey from Self to Selflessness.... A story- The Mountains are still Echoing.



On 2 February 1976 in a small village Sadpara in Skardu, near Sadpara lake, a boy named Pahaad Zada opened his eyes with limited resources and luxuries of life.



When he reached his teenage, he found himself tangled in the storm of challenges that he had to overcome to live his life.



Poverty, Harsh Weather, Lack of Resources, Family Responsibilities, and Terrorism.



When growing up as an adult he found the challenges like poverty, harsh weather, lack of resources, family responsibilities and terrorism were not only dangling like a sword on his head but they were also affecting the name, fame and economy of his country.

On his journey as a porter, Pahaad Zada along with other mountaineers, successfully completed the first ever Winter ascent to the summit of Nanga Parbat in 2016. In his career, he also became famous for successfully climbing a grand total of eight eight-thousanders.

Its getting dark.

I am hungry.

I am tired.

I set a camp for you guys there.



What if I become a porter to earn the bread and butter for my family?



Lifting the luggage of tourists and mountaineers as a porter, was the only solution he found to take off the burden of the challenges dangling on his head.

How would it feel going on the height of 8000ft with a flag of my country in my hands and a foreign climber capturing my picture with my flag?



Working as a porter-his ancestral occupation, he started knitting another dream in his mind.

Enlighten your Country's Name, Raise your Flag on the Peak of K2



Foreseeing the light that his dream was throwing everywhere like a lighthouse, on the evening of 4 February 2021, Pahaad Zada, along with his 21-year-old son and a team of two more mountaineers left for a joint-ascent of K2 (towards the aim of his life).



On 18 February 2021 according to Pakistani authorities, Pahaad Zada was officially presumed dead wearing all his achievements as a crown on his head, , singers were paying tribute to him and he moved towards the world of selflessness leaving all its challenges crushed under his feet.

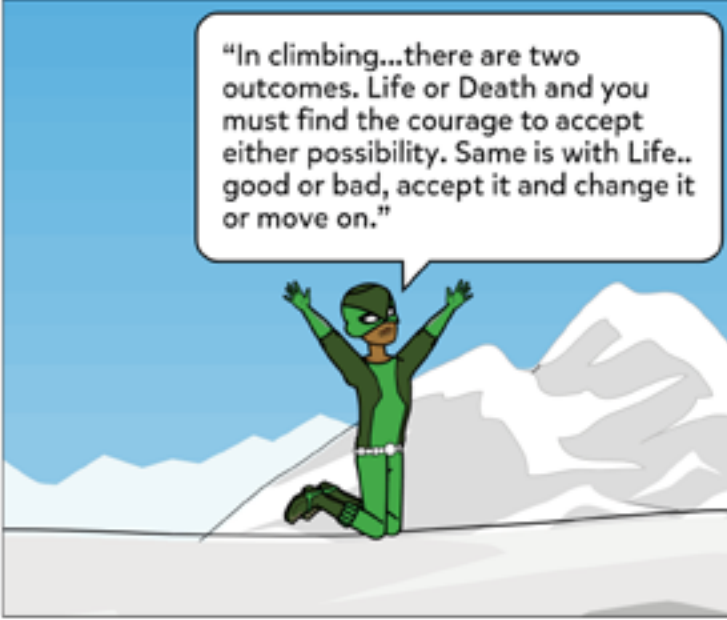
Raised  
Flag and  
Enlightened  
Country's name

"I knew,  
it might cost my  
life, But I had to do  
this for Pakistan."



One can still listen to the story based on the life of a renowned climber Ali Sadpara- An Epitome of Patriotism.

"In climbing...there are two outcomes. Life or Death and you must find the courage to accept either possibility. Same is with Life.. good or bad, accept it and change it or move on."



***“Overcoming  
one's hesitance  
is the first step  
towards  
confident***



I found working on Panel Frenzy a useful takeaway from AE Comics VX that I am planning to use in my Access classes to enrich students' story writing experience.





# SUMITA DAS



The name of my superhero is Mr. Strength. His name refers his mental strength, positive energy and true spirit. The bright smile on his face reflects his helpful attitude towards helpless people. He founded an organization in our country to help those who are unprivileged.

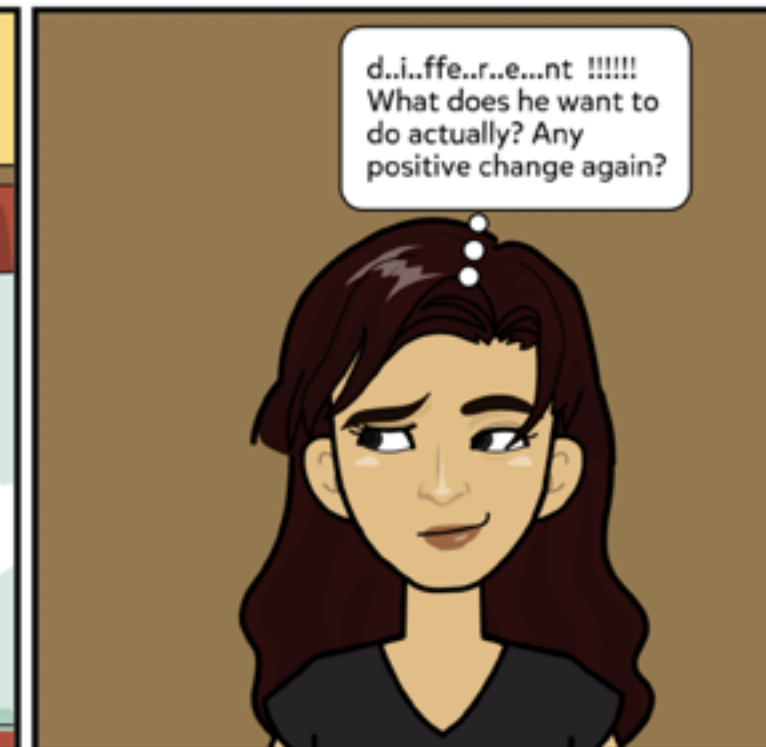
Since the horrifying arrival of covid pandemic period, he has been continually working round the clock with his organization to help the unfortunate by giving all kinds of support. So my superhero always spreads the hope of survival in everyone's mind. He never sits idly when he finds his surroundings are filled with problems.

He loves to keep himself busy bringing solutions to every single problem because he believes that every problem has a solution. His strength comes from his positive thought and limitless patience and it brings strength to whole human race.

A year ago, Mr. Strength went to India in response to his friend's invitation to visit .



When Mr. Strength looked at Asha's face, he felt that it was filled with positive curiosity. So he didn't want to break her expectations by telling her of his terrible experience.







Hey my torch of strength ! Please increase my mental strength. I have to bring out some solutions from my head.



You are living in such a nice country. But I never imagined that here one has to stay unmoved for so long on the road. It reminds me of my country Bangladesh. So I am going to keep my head and hands busy in these days. Every country has some certain problems, and I always run for solutions.

You always appear like the sun !



Air is being polluted continuously because of heavy traffic. I take it as a consequence of overpopulation.

You hit the main reason. But you have to be educated enough to understand this problem and think twice before having more children.



It will be great if I visit some places with you and discuss with people about the negative effects of overpopulation. What do you say my torch? Word has more power I think.



Don't be angry please. Look, having more children means allowing more people to live in your country. In this case, we need more places to live in which leads to deforestation. And....

Why are you not getting my point of view? I take the number of my children as my level of strength.



.....  
We need more furniture which again compels us to cut trees. And.....







***“Comics are a fantastic medium to facilitate learners’ learning process.”***

Now I am filled with so many creative ideas with comics. Before this experience, I never had any idea about the diverse usage of comics especially in the classroom. AE Comics VX has completely changed my perception towards comics. Now I strongly believe that comics can be a fantastic medium to facilitate learners’ learning process and increase their creativity level.





# ZAHIR BEGG



*Azaad was a teacher in his town, teaching the townsfolk how to read and write, and raise their voice against injustice. This didn't go down well with the local mob boss.*

*One fateful night, goons beat up Azaad and left him for dead in a secluded coal mine. The mine was secluded because it had been destroyed by a huge meteor crashing in it a year back.*

*When goons threw Azaad, he fell on the dying embers of the meteor, which gave him superpowers. He continues to teach the townsfolk, while his alter-ego fights injustice all year round.*





If a population is illiterate and uneducated, sheer numbers will only add to the problems. These people need proper education; more schools with easy access to free education. That's a start!



Azaad finally realized that nations need better education to improve the quality of life. He has already started building schools all over Bangladesh and India, using his elemental powers to construct everything from scratch.



It is time for Azaad to help people. Let me change into my alter ego.



From a polluted suffocating environment to a clean and green one, Azaad is helping nations learn how to improve life by inculcating knowledge through easily accessible education even in remote corners.





***“AEComics has opened a world of opportunities for me to realize the dream of using comics in education.”***



I've always wanted to make and use comics in education. AE Comics VX has opened up a world of opportunities for me to realize that dream.





# AUGUSTO WAH-LUNG



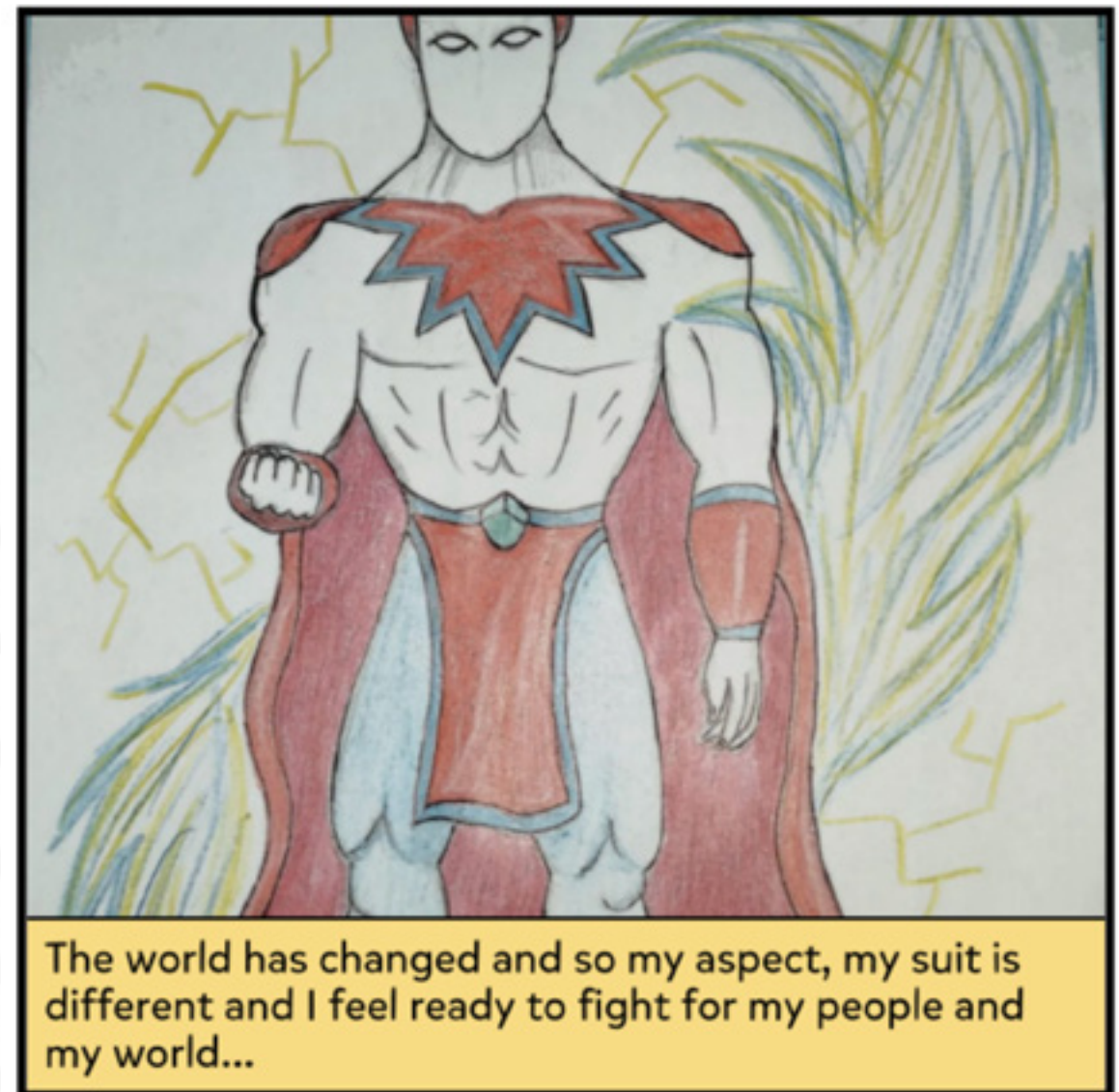
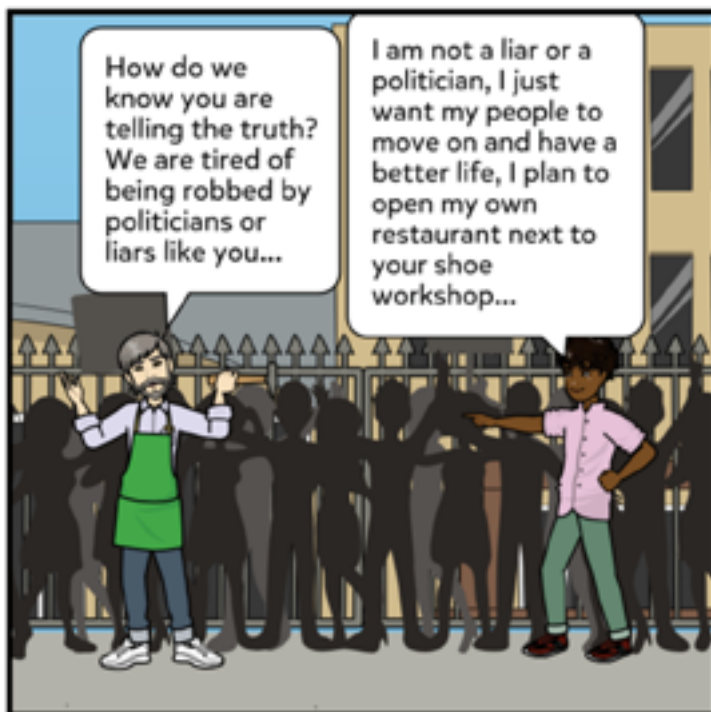
*Copan Galel was a real Mayan King from Honduras and he was my inspiration for The Great Galel.*

*He has a magic jade stone which is the source of his power. He is a very strong man who can feel nature through his body. He used to fight monsters that threatened the Earth with their wrath, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and more natural disasters. After his last fight on Earth he was called by the ancient gods among the stars to join them because the world was in peace.*

*Thousands of years later when he was about to finish his journey, some thieves tried to steal the magic stone that was keeping his body and he was awoken. Now he has to give his powers to another human being with a pure heart in order to save the world from greed, evil and corruption.*









A new era had begun, Jose was now the hero the people needed, and if evil appeared, the magic stone would transform him into Gallel one more time...



Thanks to all my efforts I can finally open my restaurant, my town is now improving and tourists are coming to visit since businesses opened.



Now we have hotels, the Mayan ruins open for public, bakeries, restaurants, people are growing coffee and we even have a shoe store!!!



Everything is at peace now... but I have a feeling... I will be ready for enemies that will come to us...



So you are telling me you lost the stone, and now for some reason everybody opened a business and the town is flourishing out of nowhere?



I will show how things should be done... that town will have to pay taxes now and they must say where they got money from, they had no resources we stole everything from them!



Dark days will come, but our hero will save the world from evil and a modern monster, corruption...





***“A comic is the world on paper.”***

Comics brought us together, a group of strangers that learned to create friendships and beautiful relationships through creating amazing artifacts and projects.



A comic is not only a graphic novel. A comic is the world on paper. Silent words that are loud in your head can give you the most beautiful chill on your back when the super hero defeats evil or saves the world.





# GIUSELA MALDONADO

GUATEMALA

*Ixbalam and Noj come from very different backgrounds, but they have experienced firsthand the disparities and injustices in Guatemala.*

*Ixbalam is strong and is able to control the forces of nature to protect others whilst Noj has psychic powers which allow him to reach deep into the true essence of each person. The sources of their powers are the original protectors of the country who had been forgotten for more than two centuries, but who still roamed the land looking for worthy successors.*

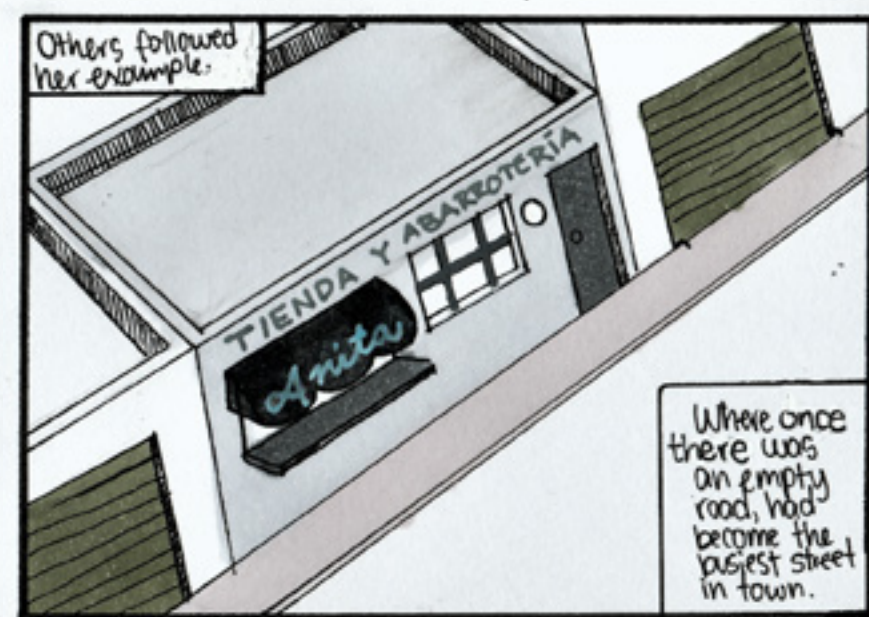
*Together, Ixbalam and Noj fight against corruption, injustice, violence and guard the communities against natural disasters.*







★ A tienda is the Guatemalan version of a convenience store.





***“I think that superheroes appeal to global audiences and learners because they present an aspirational ideal. Their personalities tend to portray imitable qualities, and they set a standard of what being good means in society. “***

The most significant experience for me is the value of international exchanges for student development and virtual networking.





# GRAZIELA RAMOS GAIARDO



*Matsé is a Shamanic indigenous healer of the Amazon Rainforest.*

*Her qualities as a hero are wisdom, great understanding, empathy and communication. She has a good grasp of the mysteries of the jungle and can evoke the wisdom of the spirits of the rainforest. Magical flowers sprout from her hands as gifts she brings to those in need.*

*Matsé is dedicated to vanquishing hatred, strengthening the value of science and the ancient indigenous wisdom, promoting debate and seeking true understanding.*









We've got to overcome our limitations and also stop deforestation! Indigenous crafts benefit us all economically, socially and culturally! I must find someone who can help us.



Once upon a time there lived deep within the Amazon Rainforest an indigenous Amazon shaman! She was considered a healer who had a good grasp of the mysteries of the jungle. She could evoke the knowledge and the Shamanic wisdom of the forest spirits.



This is Matsé! She has heard Apahu's cry for help.

She is here to empower the indigenous peoples not only for rainforest conservation, but also for developing a more sustainable and self-sufficient economy.



Oh, who are you?

Hey, Apahu! I'm Matsé! I'm the healer who can connect you to our indigenous shamanic ancestry! I come with a gift and I bring understanding and inspiration so as to strengthen your community.

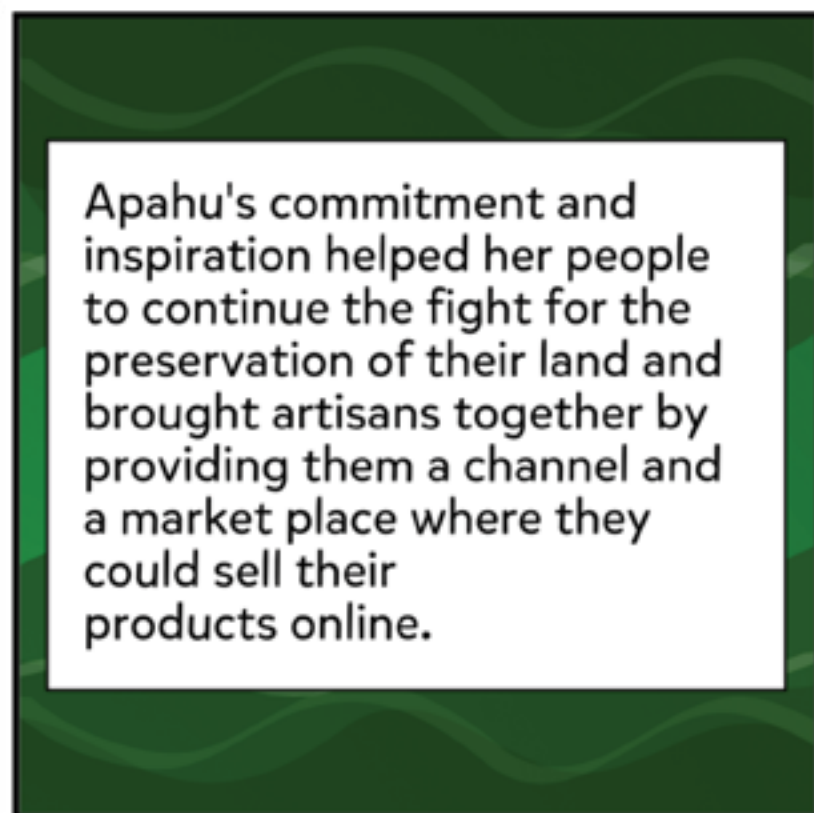


Thank you, Matsé! I'll do what you say.

Take this flower and keep it! Be sure to weave bridges just like our ancestors did and connect with the universal wisdom of the rainforest. A solution may come. Be brave and be wise.









**“Important social issues could be mirrored in the eyes of other people's realities.”**

Working with creativity, communication and new tools brought new ways of working and interacting in the classroom.

Problematizing national contexts and seeking solutions to issues ended up promoting debate and critical views of important social matters.

Virtual exchanges have built bridges so that important social issues could be mirrored in the eyes of other people's realities.





# MIGUEL FRONTADO



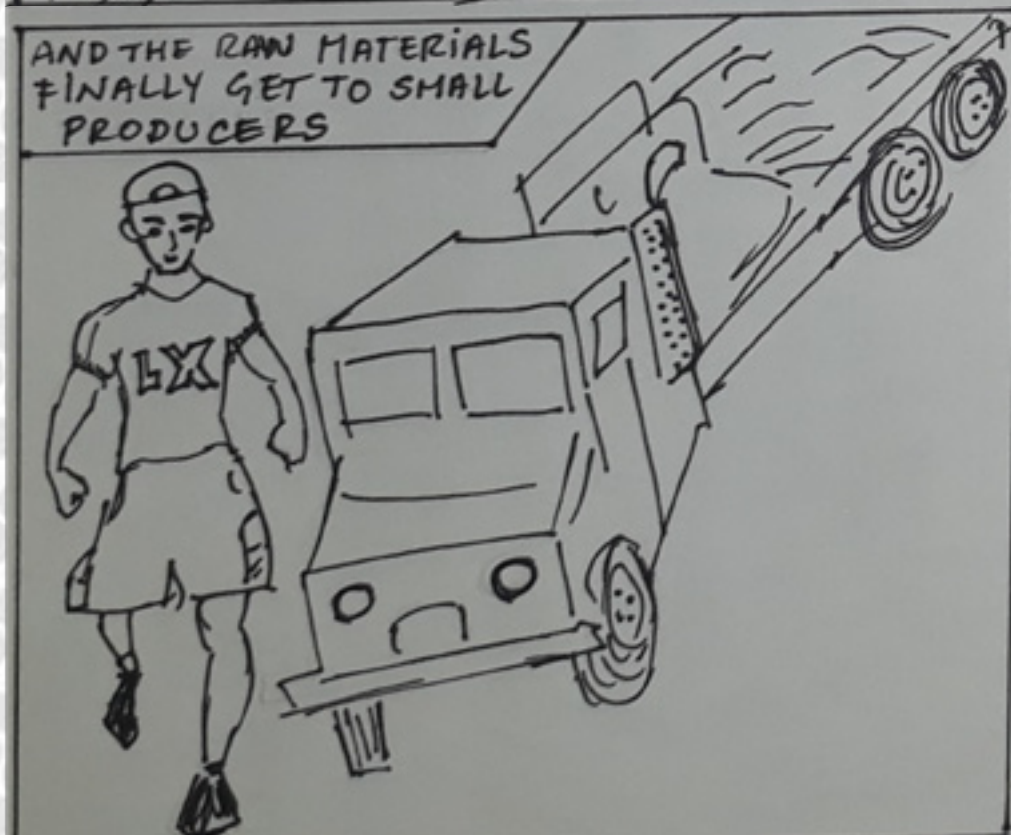
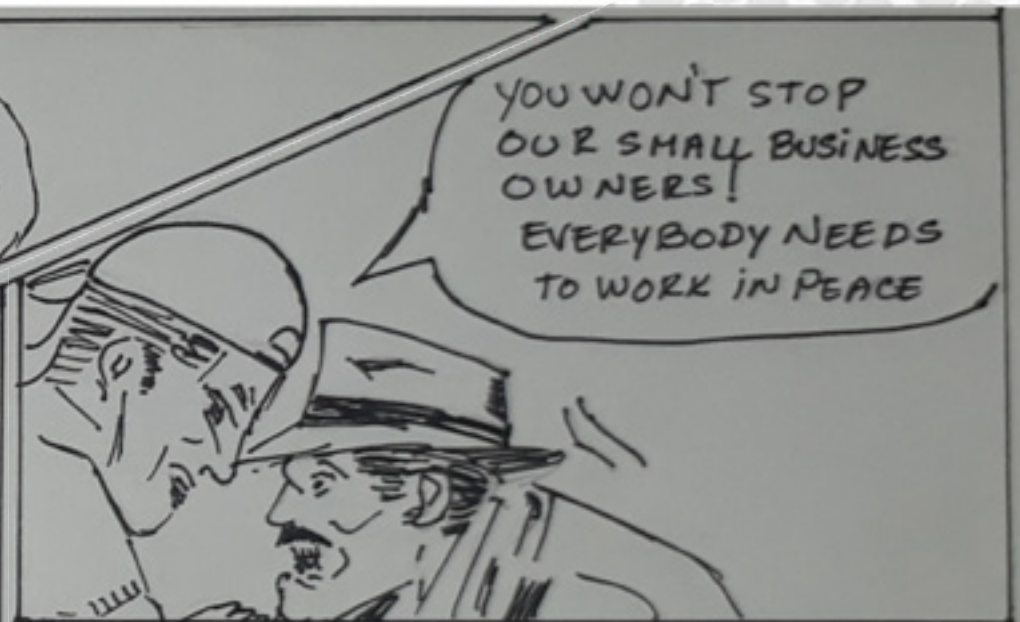
*Libertador X is a young boy who lost his father during a protest in Venezuela. Now he wants to fight for justice.*

*He lives in a barrio (a low income neighborhood) with his mother and a younger sister. He goes to college and does freelance jobs to help his mother.*

*His superpower is the ability to read minds and teletransporting himself.*





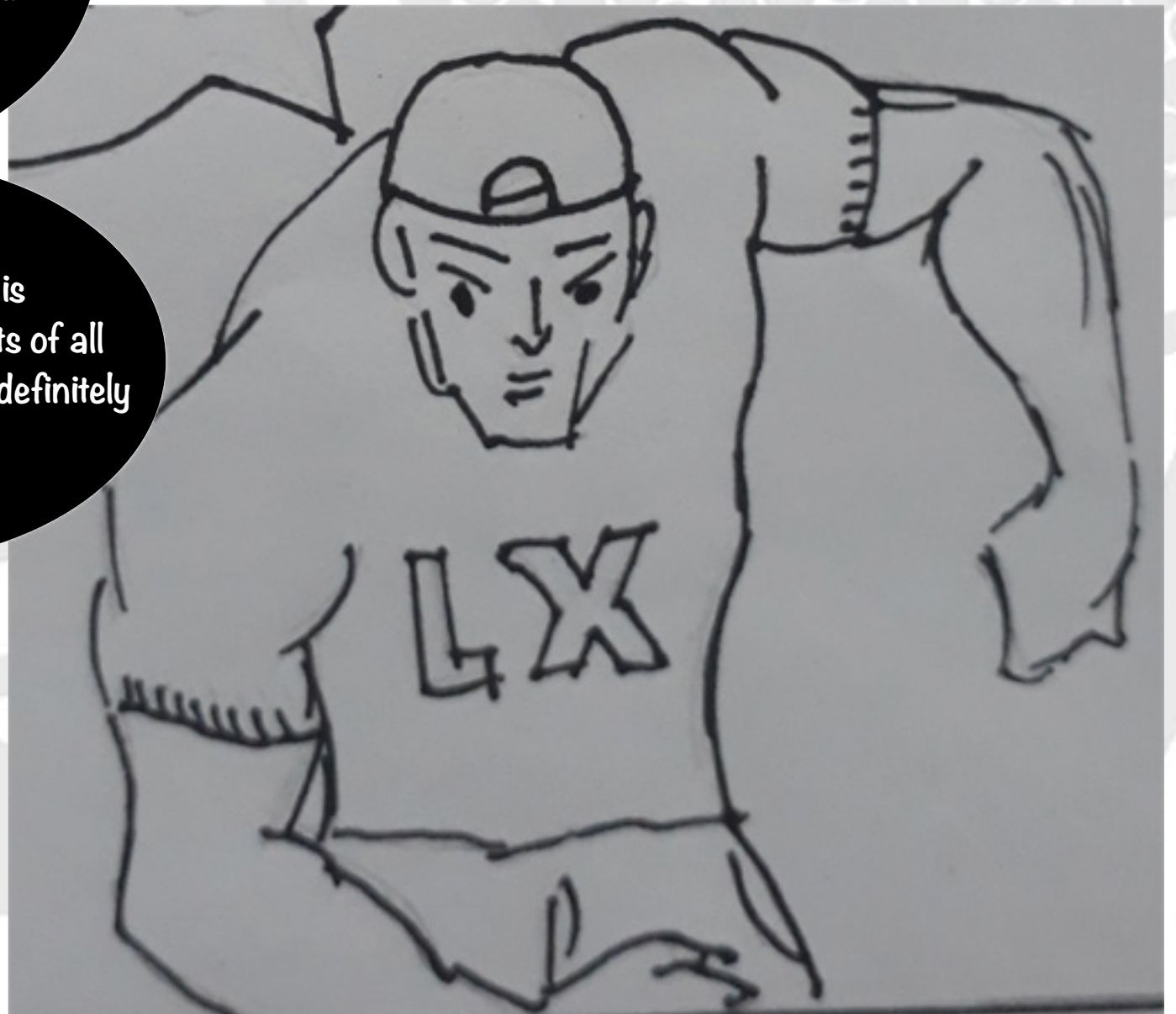




***“I have always been passionate about comics and having the opportunity to work with them.”***

I have always been passionate about comics and having the opportunity to work with them was something I longed for.

Now I know how to use this amazing tool with students of all ages and my classes will definitely be more fun.





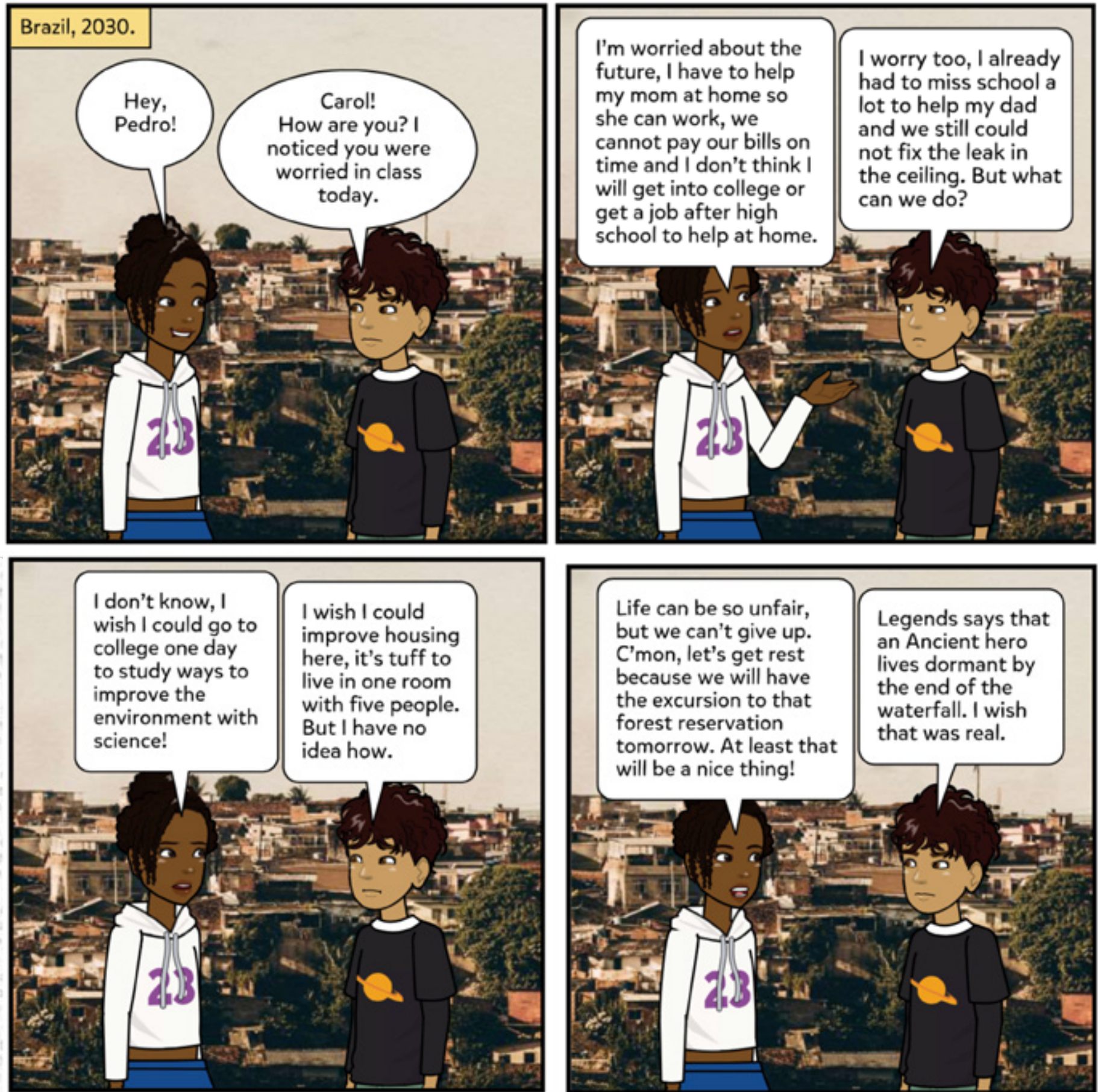
# URSULA PUELLO SYDIO



*Yara, a Brazilian superhero, is an indigenous descendent woman who represents nature, being both peaceful but also strong and impactful.*

*She remains alive as long as our forests are not entirely destroyed, and she answers the call for help of the well-intended.*

*Yara offers a newer take on those who fight for the environment. She also helps people to get their basic human rights: education, housing, and food.*







Back in their community, Yara helped Pedro and Carol's mothers start cooperative enterprise of weavers in the community so women in the favela can make a living exporting Brazilian handmade clothing. So also improved the school facilities so kids won't abandon school. Yara could start her English classes so she could improve her chances to get in a university and fulfill her dreams.





***“Sharing experiences with teachers all over the world was an incredible experience.”***



I certainly will be using comics in future activities to help my students express themselves in English.





# YANNETH DEL CARMEN VILLARREAL PITTI



Marcos is from a small town in the countryside of Panama. When he was a little boy, he used to play with his friends in the big and green valley and hop over the rocks of the river. Marcos had a happy life in that small town.

After he finished primary school, he moved to the capital to continue studying and become a professional. Later in ten years, Marcos graduated. He returned to his town. He got sad when he realized that it was different. No kids were playing in the valley. The river was not as clean and beautiful as he thought. His neighbors were suffering without a job.

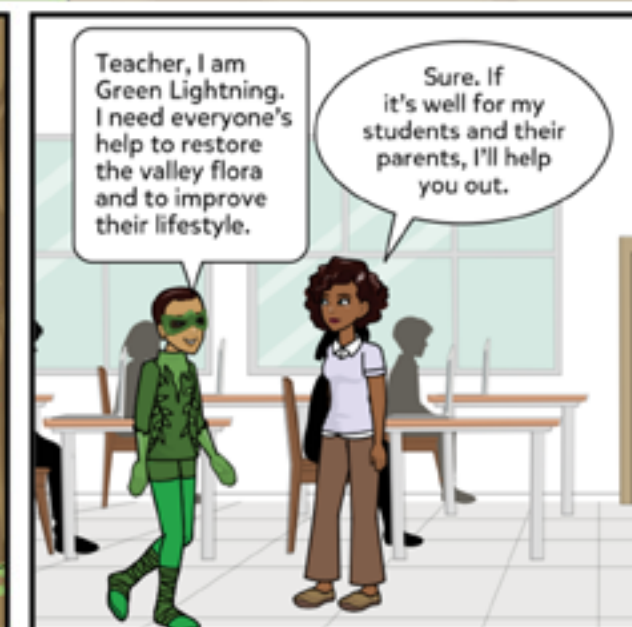
He was walking in the valley when suddenly a spirit of an old tree called Panama appeared. It knew how worried the boy was, so the Spirit of the Great Panama tree lent him its power so that the boy could turn the valley green again. And so he became the Green Lightning.



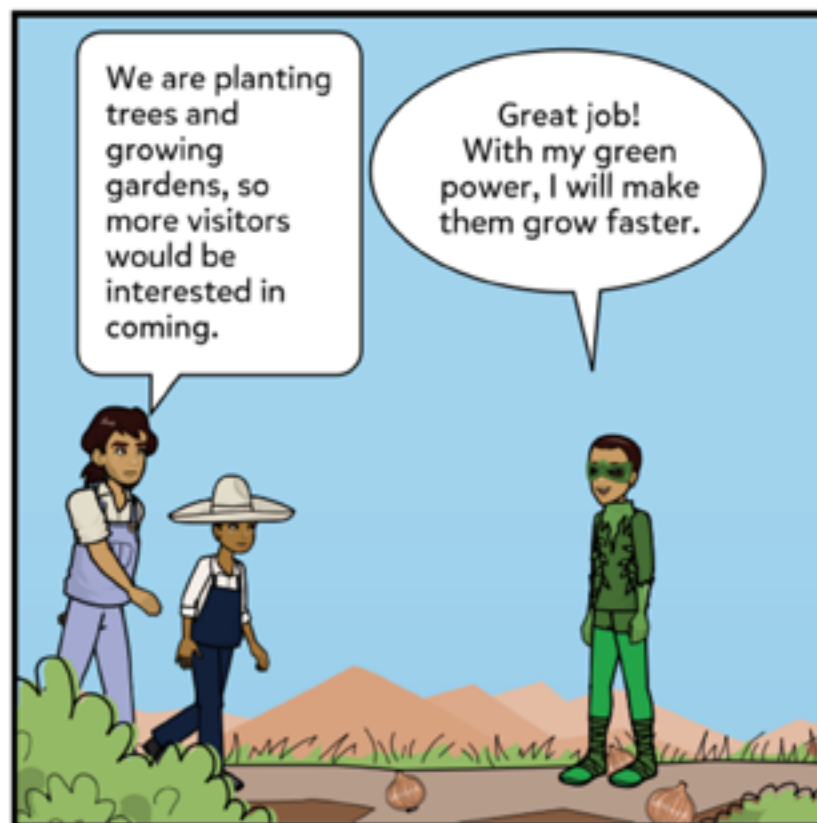


He talked with the teacher, students, and parents from the community. People started planting, and Green Lightning made them grow faster. Together, they created a monthly festival. They would sell their vegetables, plants, and handicrafts. Kids learned how to keep clean the streets and rivers and to become tour guides at the festival. More and more visitors have started coming to visit the beautiful and green town with an extraordinary climate. There were more restaurants, shops, and parks everywhere.

Marcos not only made his town as green as he remembered, but he also helped people find jobs.



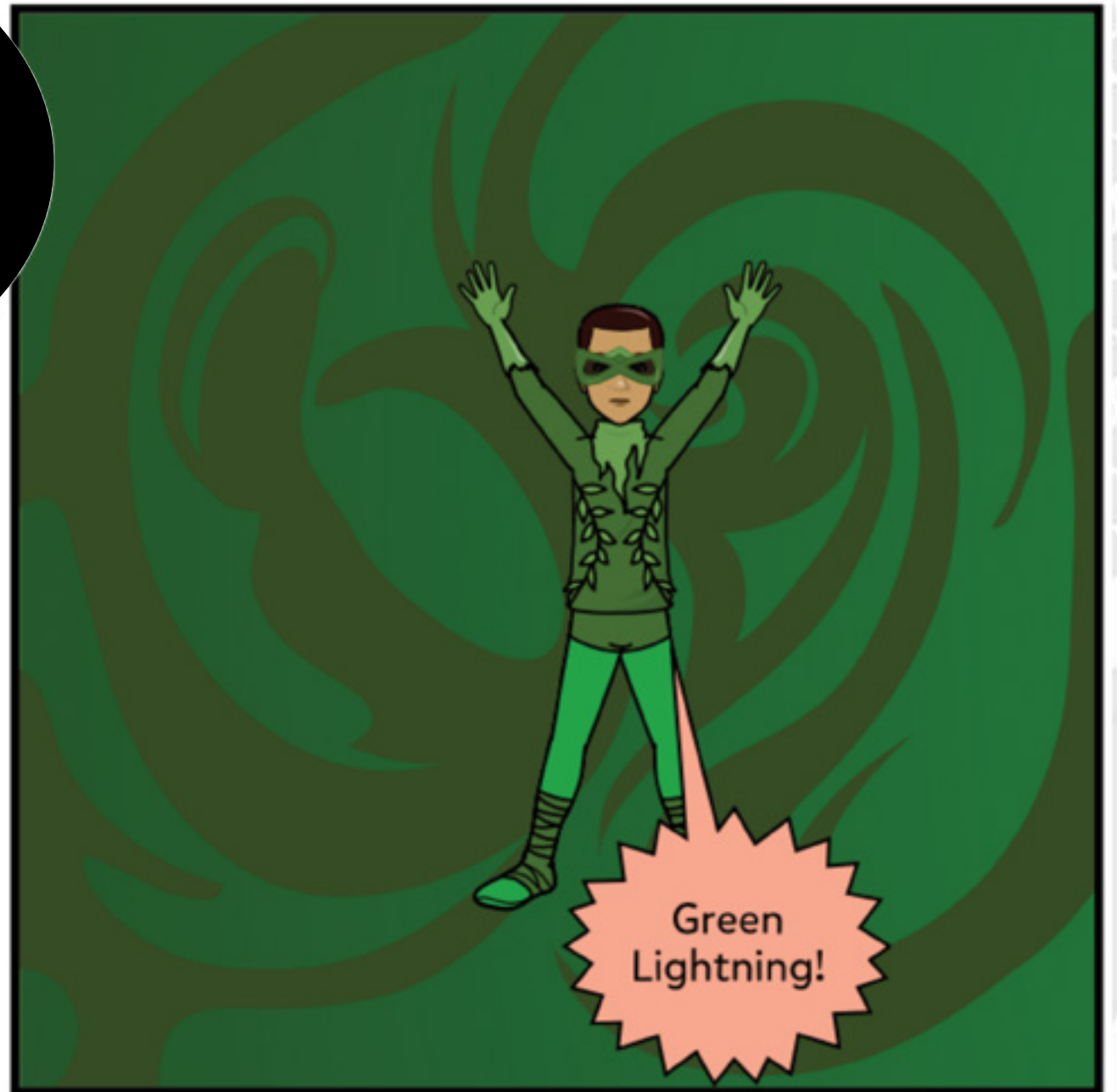






***“Through comics, my students could share their feelings.”***

I learned how to create my comic on Pixton, but most importantly, I realized that through comics, my students could share their feelings, have a fun time, and practice using the English language.



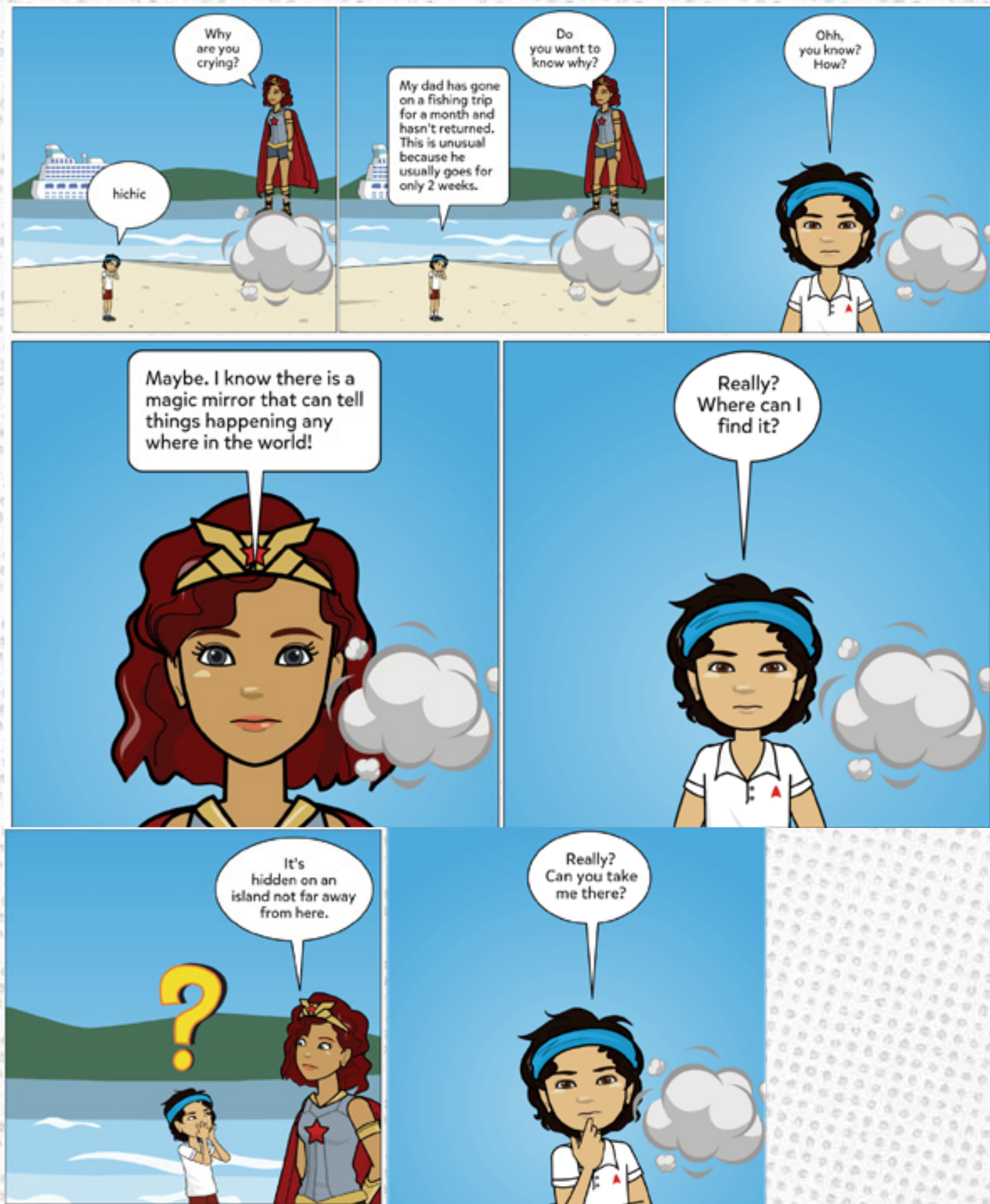


# ANGIE NGAN NGUYEN

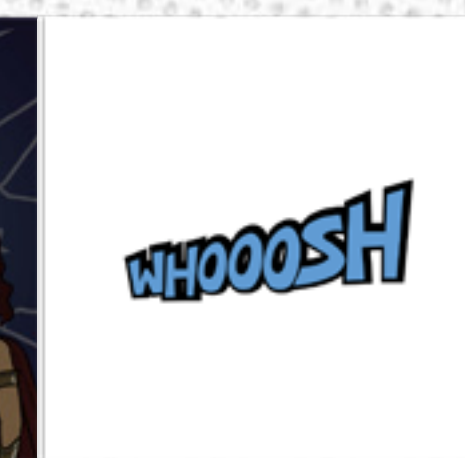
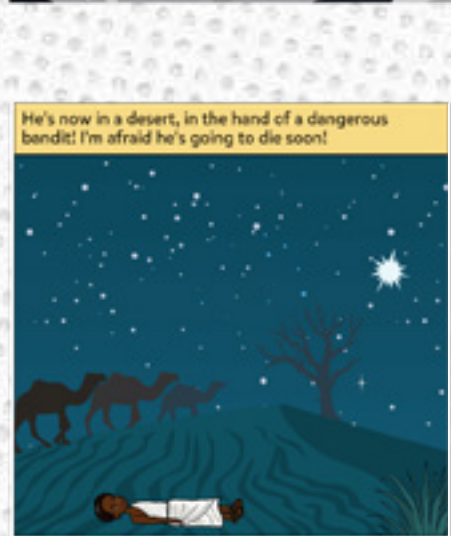
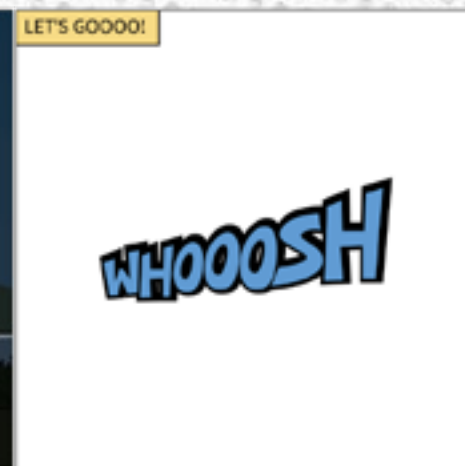
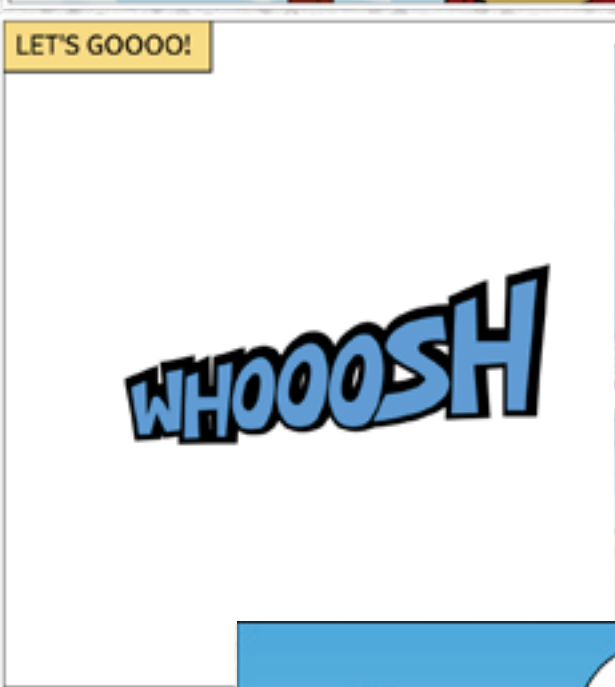


*Buto appears to help people in desperate needs. He, sometimes she, is inspired from traditional folk stories, such as Tam Cam. He/she is like the Genie in Disney's Aladdin. But the difference is that Buto does not serve a boss or owner of a magic lamp.*

*Buto likes to help small children, especially kids when they are bullied at schools, and women when they are maltreated by their husbands or bad people. He/she will appear when a desperate person cries and there is no one to help them.*











***“It is important to have activities for the students to reflect on the characters. They can try to put themselves in the characters' shoes and discuss about what would they have done otherwise. This is to develop their critical thinking skill as well as lead them to think outside the box. “***





# NINUK RETINA SUMIARSIH



## INDONESIA

The name of my superhero is Betawi Son's of the Sun. Incidentally, the costume worn by my superhero is similar to our traditional cloth from Betawi, an ethnic group from Jakarta, Indonesian's capital city. Therefore, his name is Betawi Son's of the Sun.

Why sun? Our country is an agricultural country. Whatever planted on our soil, they grow well and the sun brings a major influence for our crops.

When the pandemic hit us, our nation's economy became unstable. Many people, including myself lost a job. A lot of people I know have sold their belongings to continue living. If the conditions get worse, our soil and the sun can help us survive.

The sun also brings a moral value to remind readers that no matter how hard your problems are, be like the sun that keeps shining every single day.







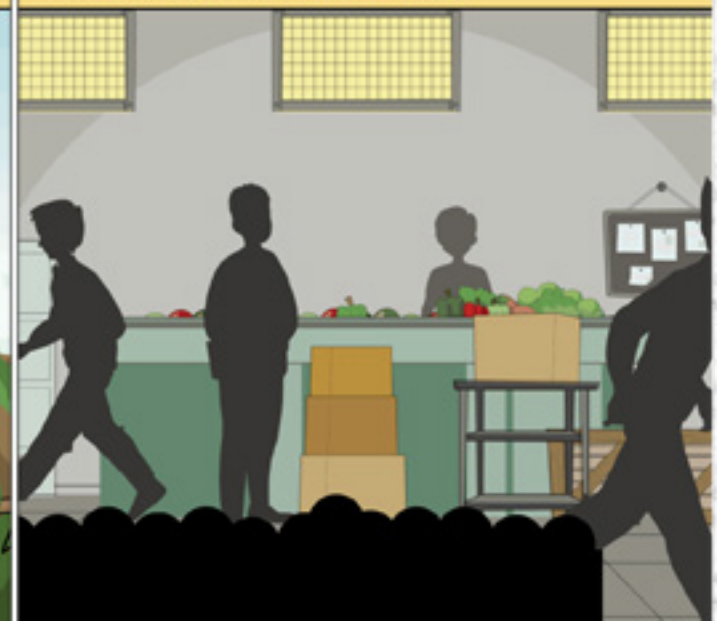




A lot of people start working on the fertile soil. Houses are also built by the field.



The global economy is recovering. The businesses are running. The crime rate is dropping.





***“... I could be creative and I believe that others have their own hidden gem of creativity, too.”***



AE Comics VX opened doors to my unrevealed creativity that I thought I had never had before.

I just found myself that I could be creative and I believe that others have their own hidden gem of creativity, too.





# ROKEEYOH SALAENGAE

## THAILAND



*Selfish human activities and overconsumption of natural resources result in Thailand's air pollution from bad dust, industrial fumes, and wildfire smoke.*

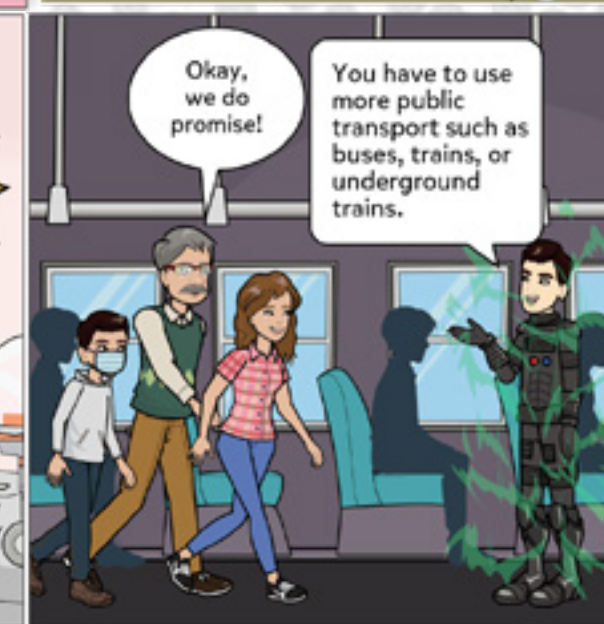
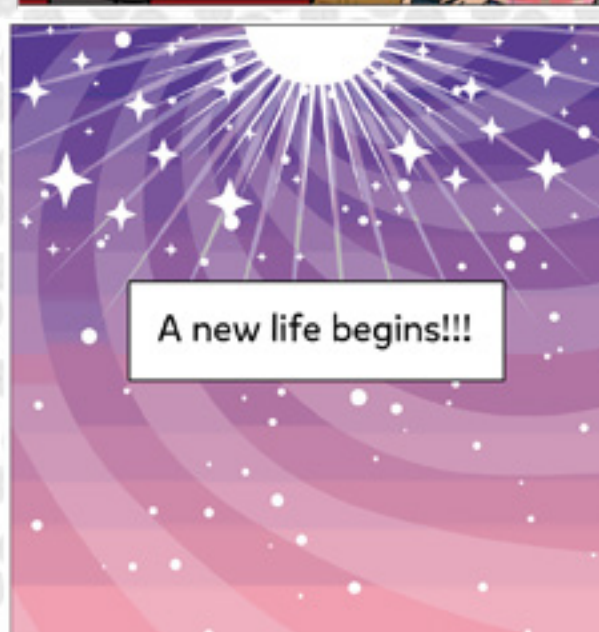
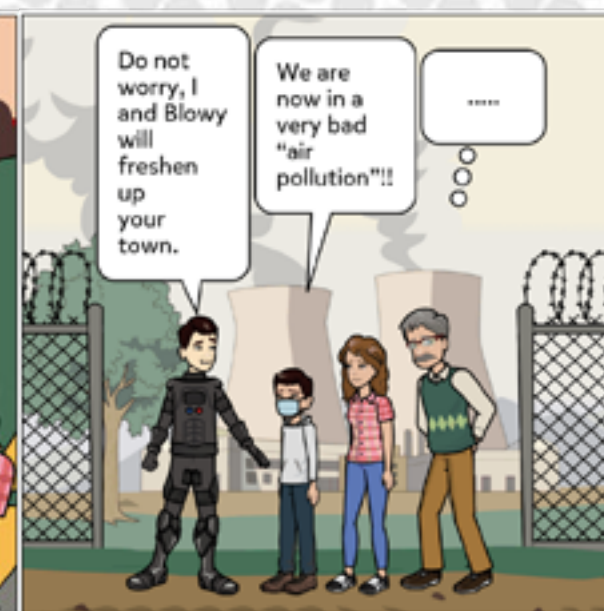
*Mr. Bright, a superhero, and his companion, Blowy, a little elephant, as the national animal, will brighten up the environments using their power together with humans' actions.*

*The blue light means water, which he can splash to stop a wildfire. The red light means power, helping him create a green environment. Air pollution creates bad health for Thais.*

*He, Mr. Bright, a very smart and keen hero, will freshen the air for humans to have a better life quality by informing people who are in trouble how to prevent and stop causes of air pollution.*







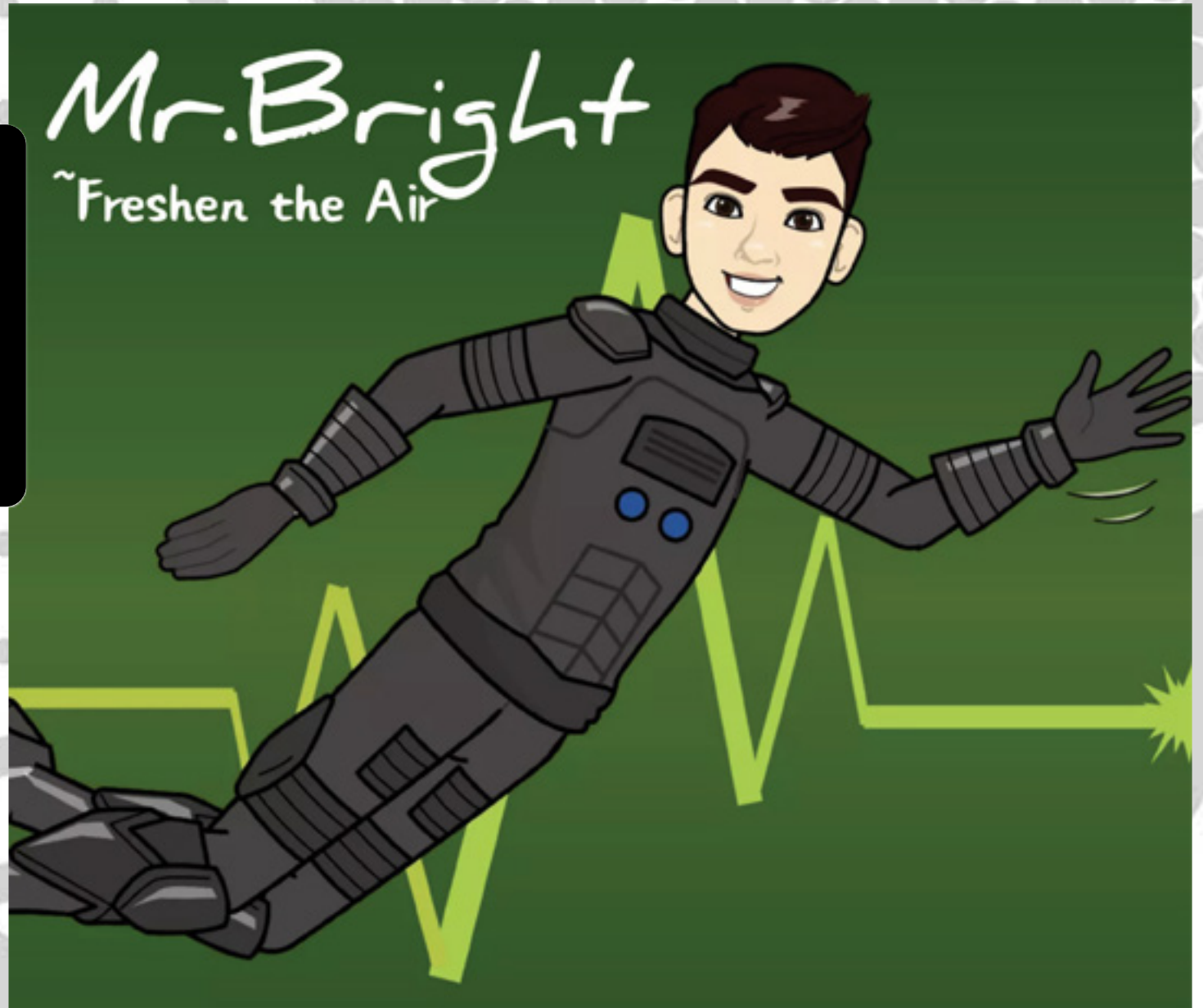






***“My world is much wider now.”***

My world is much wider as I found that comics are materials that can produce a variety of teaching strategies to develop learners.





# SHURENTSETSEG DELGERSUREN



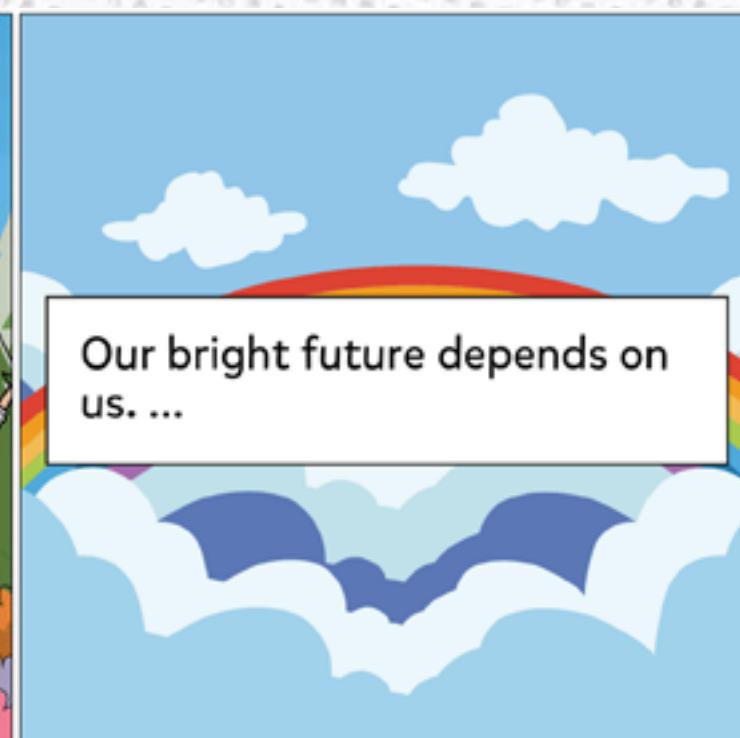
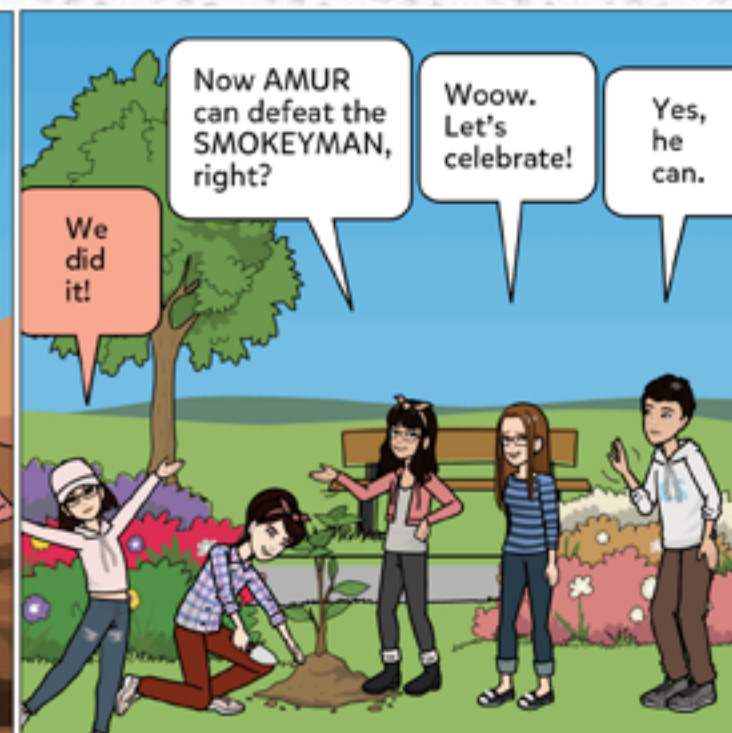
*Amur is a powerful hero who gains his power from trees and he once helped Mongolians defeat Corona monster.*

*The more trees are planted, the stronger he becomes. He is a kind and helpful one who likes being in clean environment, so he helped some students defeat Smokeyman who was a real toothache for everyone in Mongolia producing hazardous smoke and create fogs to poison children.*

*Amur got assistance from students and beat Smokeyman and brought clean air to the nation.*



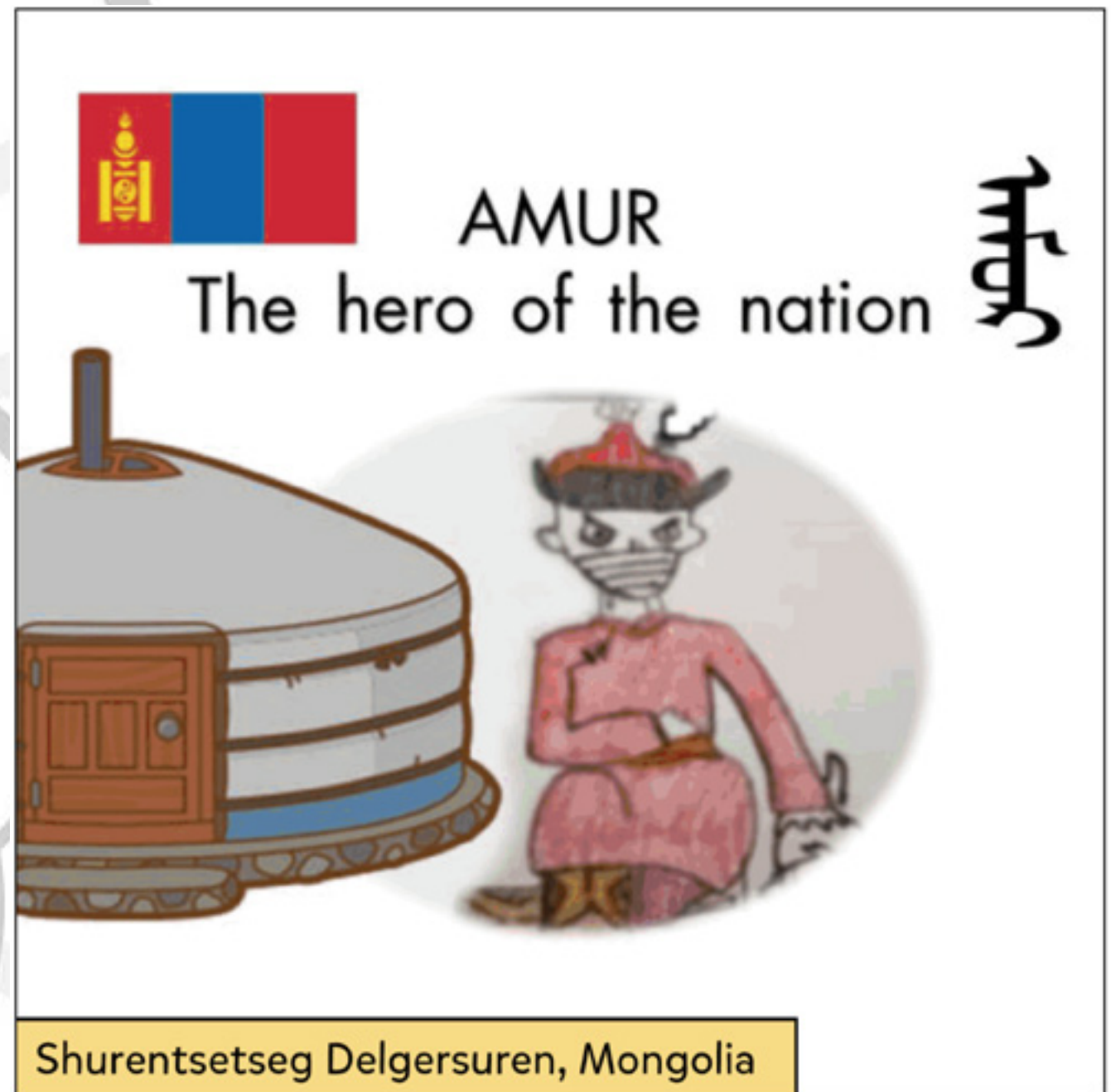






***“By being a real role model for both our students and our colleagues we can build creative confidence together. We can spread creativity by sharing our creativity experience and ideas.”***

I learned how to combine Pixton features and drawing in one comic panel.





# TENGKU NURDIYANA



*Inspired by the watercraft sponsored by the band Coldplay in cleaning the Malaysian River through the Ocean Cleanup Project, a character was created in order to promote clean river.*

*Klang Man is named after the Klang River situated in the Selangor state, Malaysia. Klang Man acts as a superhero who makes sure that the Klang River is always clean by using his supergloves that acts as a magnet to take all the trashes out of the river. Not only that, he also uses his supergloves to create new materials out of the plastics or woods that he collected from the Klang River.*

*Rather than just clean, Klang Man also plays his role in helping others so that they can have a better future. In the comic, Klang Man helped a homeless man that he found nearby the Klang River by using his supergloves to create a shelter out of the plastics he collected from the Klang River. As a result, the homeless guy was saved from the cold and hot weather.*











Klang Man keeps on taking care of the Klang river. Using his supergloves, he turns all plastics into things that might help other people.





***“In this comic-making experience, most of my students created comics representing their own personal experiences. It is easier than thinking of something new for beginners in comic-making.”***

I really enjoyed the new experiences on how to get students engaged by learning through comics.

As a teacher, I also learned how to be more creative in using all materials that I have in making my lessons more interesting.





# GULBAHOR UMARBKOVA



*Demos Dude was born in a small city Shymkent, Kazakhstan in very simple working family, but he wasn't an ordinary child.*

*From the very beginning of his life he has a power of persuading people to do the right things, all because of his unusual eyes. He had to just look someone in the eye. It was enough to convince people. As a child he used his power to help his friends, relatives, other children. But as times passed he found out that very bad things are happening around and his eyes aren't enough to convince people.*

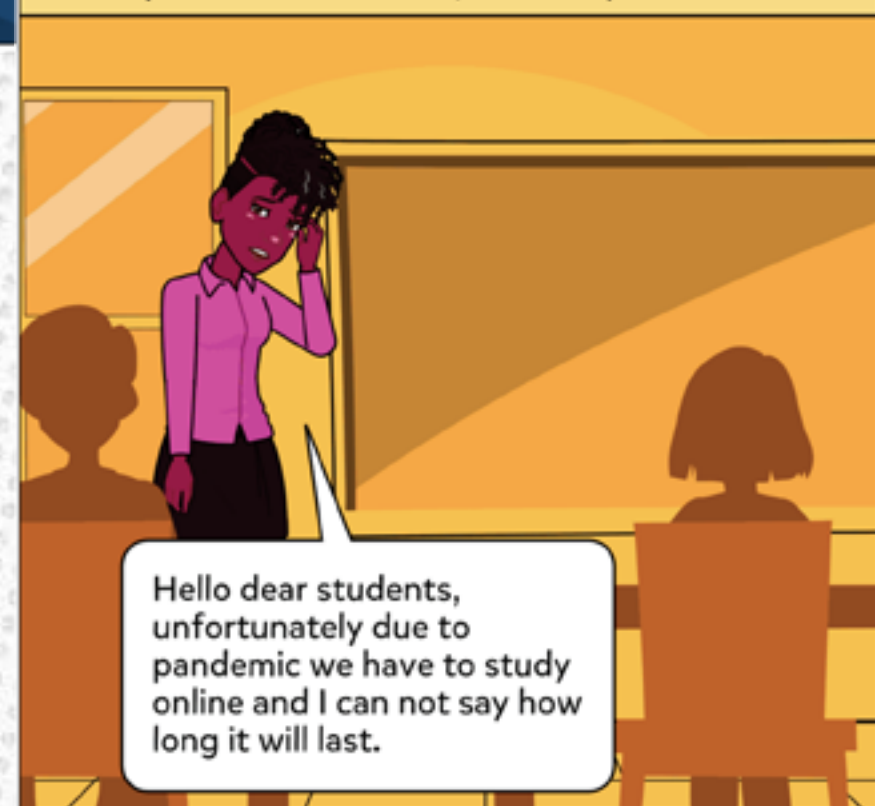
*Then he decided to remove his power from his eyes to his hand. Instead of looking in someone's eyes, he just has to hit the ground and a magic wave appears which has a conviction in it. The larger a wave is, the more people will be included in a mission.*

*Demos Dude works to address social injustices all over Kazakhstan. Who knows? Maybe in near future he will meet other superheroes and will fight together against all bad people around the world.*

One upon a night was born an unusual boy. His power was in his eyes, which could convince people to change their minds, in order to do the right things. His name was DEMOS DUDE. As a young boy he used only eyes to complete his missions.



One day as in a whole world, THAT day has come.









As you have noticed Demos Dude grew up and he had to change his outfit.



Parents have to protect, love, care about their children. DON'T let them work. DON'T ruin their childhood



He hit the ground with his super strong hand and a magic wave passed along the Earth that reached each and every person

Children have the rights to learn.

No more Child Labour!!!

Children have to study.

Education is important.



Do not dare to make children work!!!

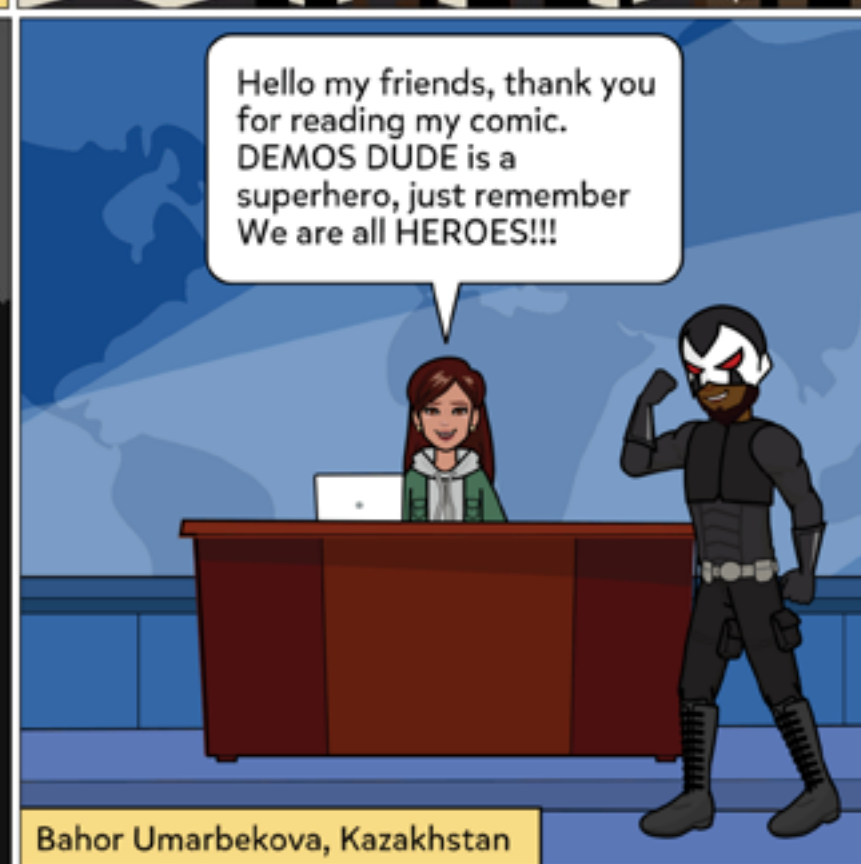


The term "Child Labour" has disappeared, adults have become aware of their role in society.

My mission is completed. Remember every child has the right to be educated, to have sweet childhood.



Hello my friends, thank you for reading my comic. DEMOS DUDE is a superhero, just remember We are all HEROES!!!



Bahor Umarbekova, Kazakhstan



***“Don't be a dreamer,  
be a **CREATOR**, a  
**PIONEER**.”***

On my work and study I always seek additional information out of the program or book, but the AE Comics VX has Supplemental Resources. They are just incredible, the very place where I have found all my needs.





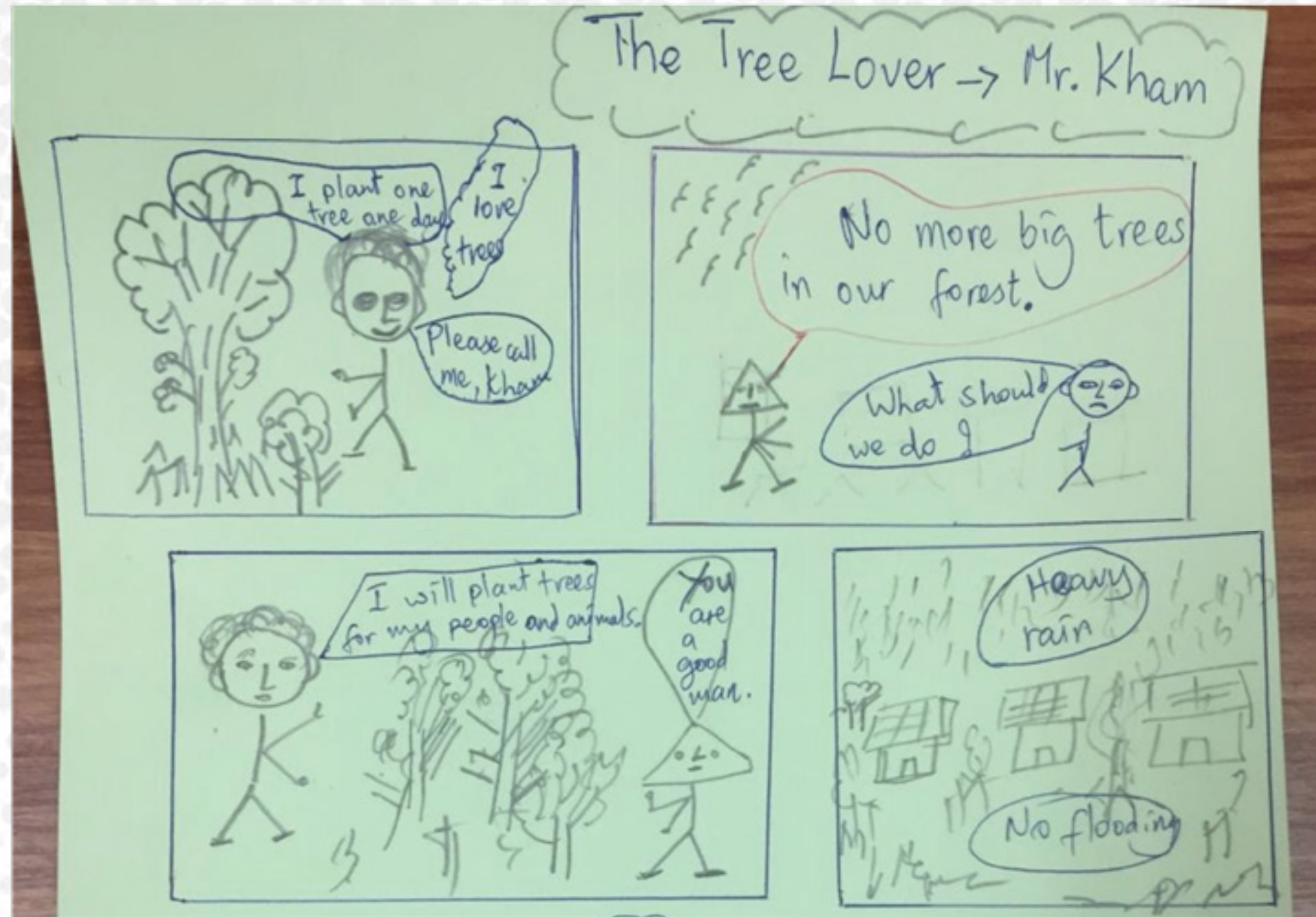
# PHONESUKHA INSISIENGMAI



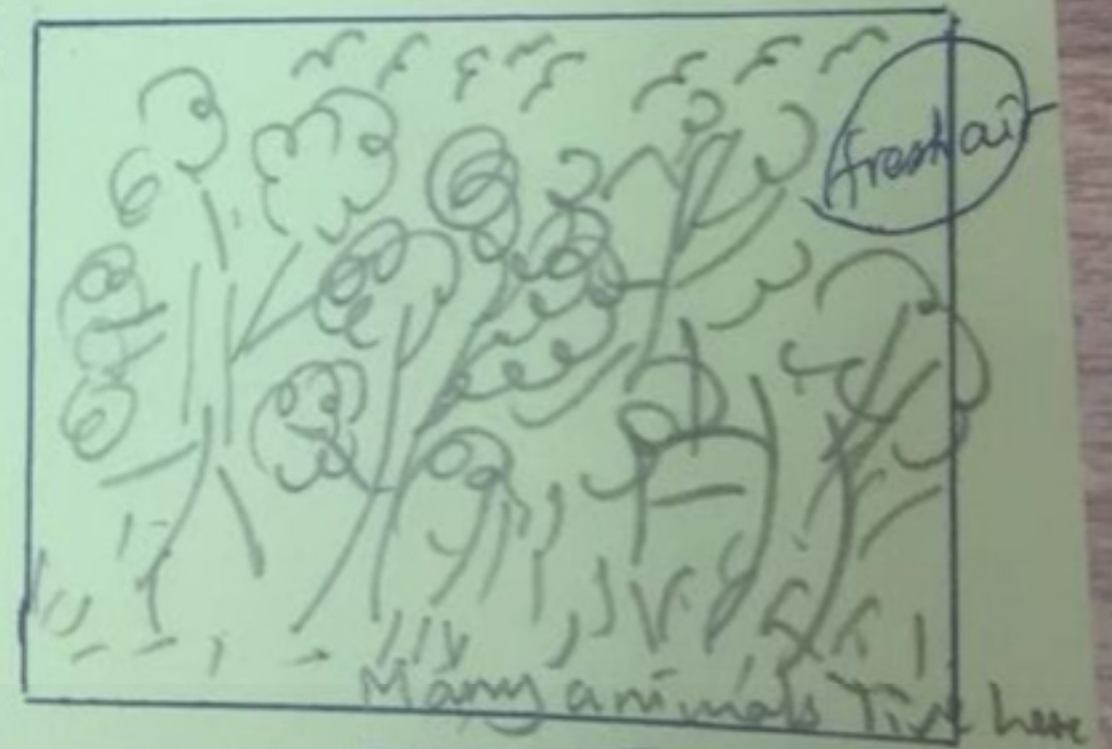
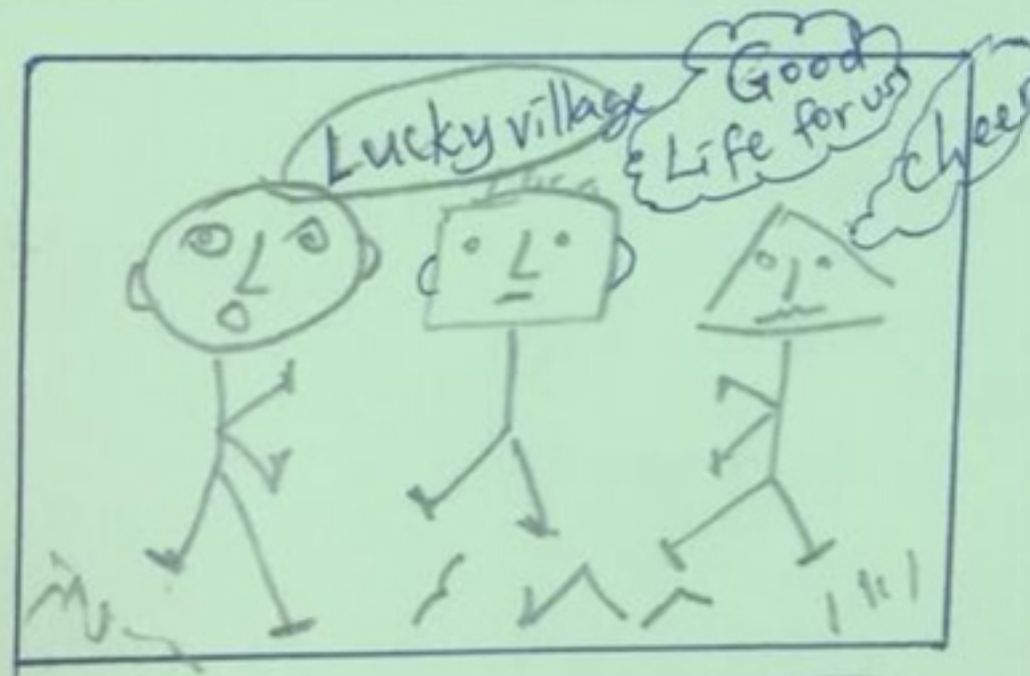
Mrs. Kham is a tree lover. She loves planting trees in the forests. People in her village think that she is crazy but Mrs. Kham does her planting every day. She thought and did her planting without caring other people who said bad things about her. She kept planting little trees around the lake and forest.

Many trees became young trees and strong ones. Big trees could give good fresh air and villagers could use wood from the trees. Some villagers helped her to plant more trees and they worked with her so well. She did her best to protect nature and lives from heavy rain.

She has planted trees for almost 20 years.





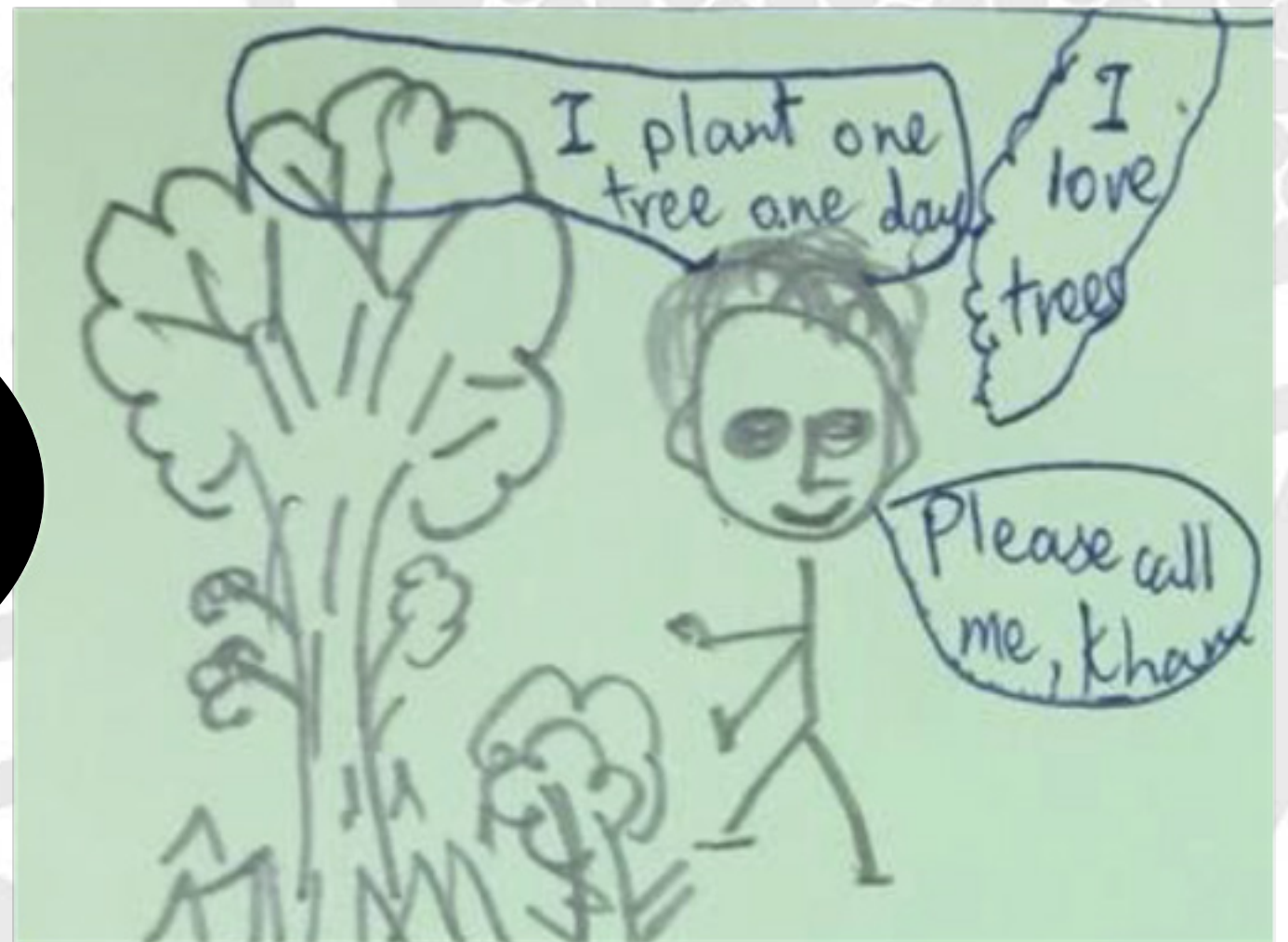




***“I have learned how to create my own comics to use in my class.”***

I got good at sharing comic works from Access teachers around the world. I have learned how to create my own comics to use in my class.

I had a great time attending live events and group meetings in my pod 5 meeting. We had such a wonderful time learning and sharing our work together.





# RUBIATUL FIJRIAH BINTI AZIZAN



*Super-Hygiene was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is helping people to ensure safe, clean and hygienic surroundings.*

*Protecting people from diseases is likely to be his main concern. He will always reach out to people that harm others and give them a lesson. He has superhuman powers. He has better senses and is stronger and faster than normal humans.*

*He is courageous and noble in doing his job. His appearance provides a special aura and positivity to others.*



Super-Hygiene is a superhero that helps people to keep their hygiene and make sure everything in good condition.

The man this throwing his garbage into the river.









When we sneeze, we release germs. Those germs can spread to other people, this can lead us getting sick easily. It can be harmful to everybody.



So when we sneeze or cough, we should cover our mouth and nose with our hands or a handkerchief so the germs don't spread to other people.



Thanks Super-Hygiene. Now I know what to do next time.



Your welcome, kids

Remember everyone, always practice good deeds and keep our environment hygienic!!!



The End.

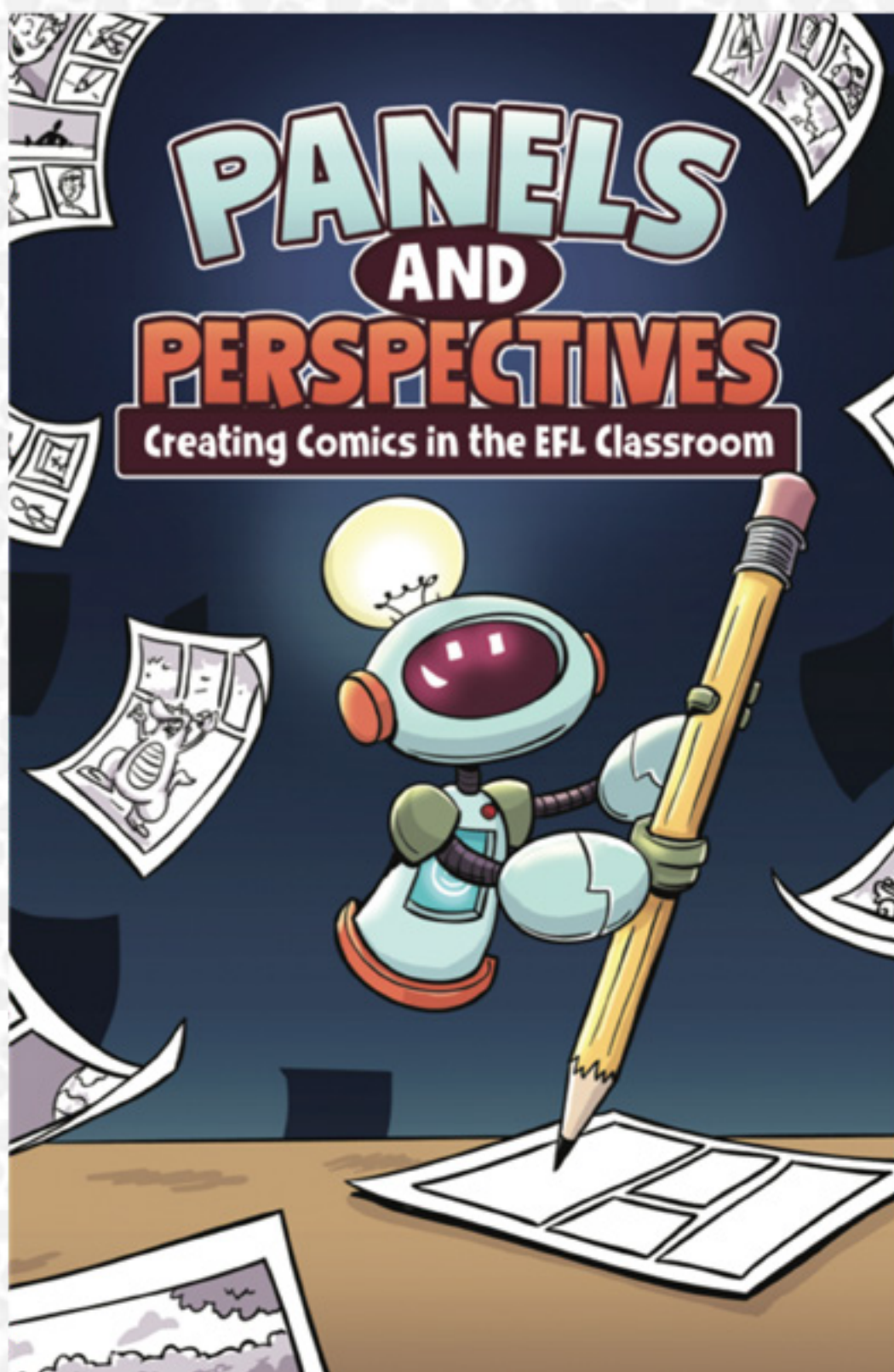


***“My students had an amazing experience with comics to express their thought and their experience about certain topics that we discussed in class.”***

Getting to know others inspiring educators, I learned about many handy tools and tips. AE Comics VX was the best experience ever throughout the journey.



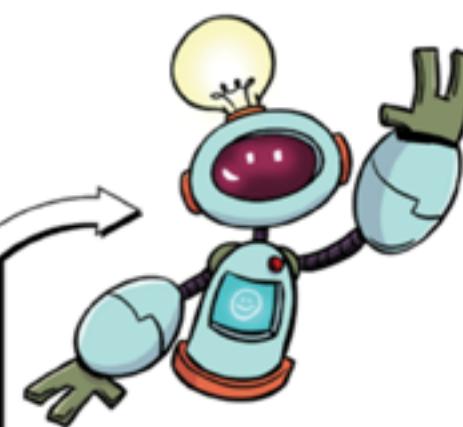




# PANELS AND PERSPECTIVES

Creating Comics in the EFL Classroom

MEET O.R.I.  
OUR ROBOT INSTRUCTOR IS  
READY TO TAKE YOU ON AN  
INSTRUCTIONAL TOUR ABOUT  
COMIC BOOKS. LEARN HOW  
TO USE THEM AND CREATE  
THEM IN YOUR CLASSROOM!



## What's Inside:

<b>Pages 1-3</b> <b>Introduction</b> 	<b>Pages 4-5</b> <b>History</b> 	<b>Pages 6-8</b> <b>Structure of Comic Books</b> 
<b>Pages 9-11</b> <b>Tools to Make Comic Books</b> 	<b>Pages 12-17</b> <b>Storytelling</b> 	<b>Pages 18-22</b> <b>Why and How to Make Comic Books</b> 

## Created by:

DAN RYDER • WRITER  
JOSH ALVES • ARTIST  
JACQUELINE GARDY • EDITOR

Learn more about using comics in the classroom by downloading Panels and Perspectives, a publication from the Office of English Language Programs, available at <http://bit.ly/EFLComics>



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the following people, this exchange program and anthology volume would not have been possible.

- Dawn Rogier, Branch Chief, Virtual Engagement and Materials Development
- The Online Facilitator Team: Dr. Jennifer Williams, Dan Ryder, Tim Smyth, Katie McClintic, Bob Nguyen, and Dr. Gena Rhoades
- The support staff from FHI-360: Addis Aseffa and Dr. Christine Cipriani Wilson
- The alumni mentors: Iryna Roubel, Kateryna Filatova, Sandra Marakkala Inosha, Walaa Salem, Mansour Sy, Amna Khan, and Wieka Barathayomi
- Pixton Comics <https://www.pixton.com/>
- LibraryPass <https://librarypass.com/>
- The guest experts:
  - Andrew Aydin, <http://www.andrewaydin.com/bio>
  - Ram Devineni and Shubhra Prakash, Priya's Mask <https://www.priyashakti.com/priyas-mask>
  - Dwight L. MacPherson, of Hocus Pocus Comics <https://www.hpcomics.net/>



